

Monday September 9 1996

Table of international news frequencies for various countries including Albania, Andorra, Austria, etc.

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,653

Exclusive extract from his new book

Tony Blair's New Britain



Damon's misery at Monza

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The editors who are favourite for the chop

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Union anger at Labour no-strike plan

Seumas Milne Labour Editor

TENSIONS between the trade unions and the Labour Party spilled over yesterday on the eve of the TUC's pre-election conference...

leaders who regard specifying £4.26 as a tactical mistake were taking heart from the general support for a General Council statement and a supporting GMB general union motion...



VICTOIRE Thivisol, aged four, celebrates her award for best actress at the Venice Film Festival with French director Jacques Doillon. Victoire, the youngest person to win a major festival award, stars in Doillon's Ponette as a girl who refuses to accept her mother's death in a car accident. Derek Malcolm, page 3

Writer defends revelations in Runcie biography

Victoria Clark

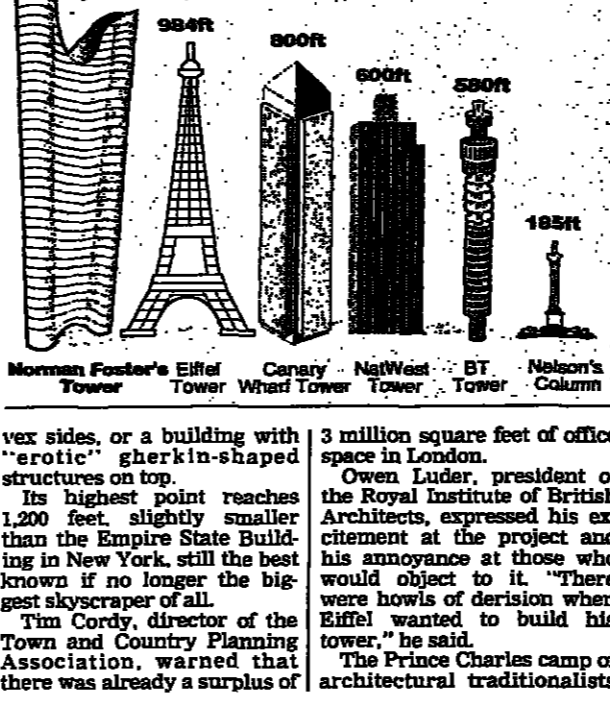
THE author of a forthcoming biography of Robert Runcie, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, warned yesterday that the collaboration they entered into five years ago was in danger of descending into an unedifying slanging match...

London's £550m erotic gherkin

James Meikle and Elizabeth Pickering

PLANS for Britain's first 1,000ft plus skyscraper will be unveiled today as London takes a Manhattan-style approach to proving itself a leading world city...

High and mighty



were bound to oppose it, he said, because "it's not decorated with doric columns. People come from around the world to visit tall buildings and go up to the top of them. Tall buildings are attractive on the skyline."



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Advertisement for Charles Wells 4.3% A.B.V. 100% TLC. BOMBARDIERI PREMIUM BITTER. Brewed by the Charles Wells Family Brewery, Bedfordshire, Est. 1876.

Sentence: 1,000 years of sodomitical torment

Lesbian Avengers and OutRage declare a 'Queer Fatwa' as the Islamic Rally For Revival struggles to put across its fundamentalist message in Hyde Park

Monday sketch



Ian Black

SHEIKH Omar Bakri Muhammad was in full cry about the cancellation of the Islamic Rally for Revival when the Lesbian Avengers and OutRage swung up and issued their own angry response to a fundamentalist agenda. "Queer Fatwa" the dozen or so gay demonstrators called it, a cheeky mock-Muslim touch designed to inflame a Sunday morning in Hyde Park when the speakers were on opposite sides of a cultural and political chasm policed by a taut blue line. But decibels ran higher than passions as the pink corner whistled and the green one huddled round the camera and microphone booms recording Sheikh Muhammad — bearded and robed and complaining loudly about Islamophobia and media hype — explaining why he was with just a few score followers rather than 12,000 or more at the London Arena. "The British government may be reviewing its policy towards the Islamic Movement," declared the Syrian-born leader of the radical Al-Muhajiroun (The Emigrants) organisation. "But that will be a mistake. If the Muslims start to go underground that will be worse. There is no need for any government to put pressure on us. "The rally for Islam was an educational and cultural event. It was an intellectual platform. But it has been changed from a rally for revival to a rally for terrorism by the dictatorships of countries that are really terrified of us. In Britain you believe in the freedom of expression. Please practise what you preach." Behind him, against park railings draped with black flags proclaiming the uniqueness of Allah, some of what Al-Muhajiroun preaches was on public display: bestiality, lesbianism, adultery and fornication were billed as "deadly diseases" alongside appeals to fight anti-Muslim oppression in Algeria, Bosnia, Palestine and Kashmir. One leaflet, confiscated by police, contained assurances that "the victory

of the faithful over the Jew is imminent." Tourists drawn by traditions of English tolerance and good-humoured soapbox banter looked puzzled when, across the gravel, Sheikh Muhammad's "sentence" was pronounced: "We believe that the most suitable punishment is not responding by violence," declared OutRage's Peter Tatchell, "but condemning him to a thousand years of relentless sodomitical torment." Some serious multicultural exchanges did take place: Stuart Colley, of OutRage, and Al-Muhajiroun supporter Elias Power, a converted Roman Catholic from Slough, talked



OutRage members protest at Speakers' Corner against 'homophobic' Islamic fundamentalism. PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL CRABTREE

briefly about the laws of man and the laws of Allah but they got nowhere fast. Conspiracy theorists on the Muslim side of the chasm were having a field day about the late cancellation of the rally, announced on Friday afternoon and attributed to the sudden tripling of security costs. Yet everyone knew that for

weeks beforehand there had furiously complaints from Jewish, Hindu and gay organisations as well as from Arab governments fighting violent fundamentalists with exiled supporters living in Britain. Rally organisers had advertised video or audio messages from Osama Bin Laden, an Afghanistan-based Saudi billion-

aire accused of backing attacks on US troops in his native land; Sheikh Muhammad Fadlallah, spiritual leader of the Lebanese Hizbullah, suspected of involvement in hostage-taking, and Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, imprisoned for attempting to blow up the New York World Trade Centre. Even allowing for the adage that one man's terrorist is another's freedom-fighter, this was provocative stuff: harassed Foreign Office officials had gone to ground as the protests flowed in from Cairo, Algeria and Tunis. Last Thursday the Home Office took the unusual step of warning, in a sternly worded public statement, that the rally would be closely monitored and that any incitement to violence or racial hatred would be punished. In the end it was only the governments — and probably only the short-sighted ones who think that state violence is the solution to radical fundamentalism — that were triumphant. On Saturday the main headline in Egypt's semi-official al-Ahram newspaper read "Terrorist Conference Cancelled" while Friday's edition, still lambasting Britain for allowing its freedoms to be abused, ran a cartoon of John Major admitting he was behaving like an ostrich over this issue.

Catherine Moseley, neither Muslim nor militant, was disappointed by the cancellation of the original rally: she had been invited to address it to appeal to anyone who could influence the Kashmiri militants who have been helping her partner, Paul Wells, and three others, since July 1995. But for Muhammad al-Mas'ari, the Willesden-based Saudi dissident saved from deportation to Dominica by a public outcry earlier this year, even Speakers' Corner provided a useful platform, and not only to issue a call for the boycott of American goods following last week's bombing of Iraq by what he called the "Zionist-controlled US." "We talk about the struggle between the two civilisations, western civilisation and Islamic civilisation," he explained. "We believe Islam is a supreme ideology, but we spread it by debating. Seek knowledge, know your power, but don't censor other people's views before you hear them. The sword is not powerful. The word is powerful." Other rallies for revival would go ahead, in Birmingham, Bradford and Manchester over the coming weeks, and another big event would be scheduled for next year: "God knows," Dr al-Mas'ari grinned. "Next time it may be in Downing Street."

Proms 'advert sales' inquiry

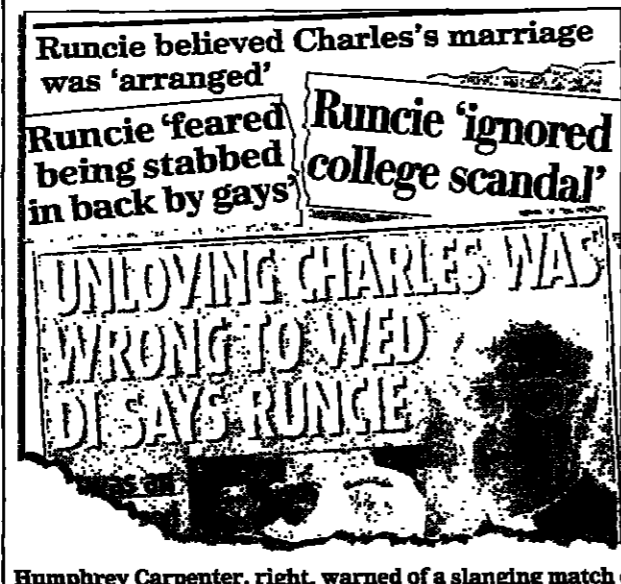
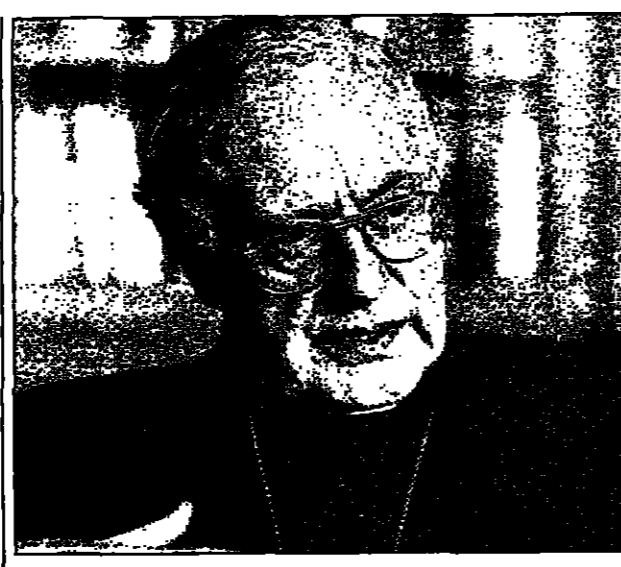
Sarah Boseley

THE BBC is to mount a full investigation into allegations that senior executives sanctioned paid prime-time advertising — in the form of company logos to be shown on screen — during the televising next Saturday of the Last Night of the Proms. Yesterday the Corporation promised tough action if it was found that a promotional agency it had employed for the last four years was at fault. The inquiry has been launched following claims by a Sunday newspaper that an undercover journalist was given a price of £30,000 for four to seven minutes of corporate advertising. Any unavoidable shot of a company logo during a BBC programme would be a breach of its charter.

The row centres on the promotional agency, Profile Pursuit Ltd, which has been handling the sale to major companies of hospitality units in Hyde Park, where a 30-acre arena will receive a relayed broadcast on video screen of the Last Night at the Albert Hall. About 25,000 people are expected to picnic on the grass or sit in stands enjoying corporate hospitality. The Sunday Times reported yesterday that its journalist, posing as a sponsorship agent working for a large company, was told that if he bought one of these hospitality units, the company logo would be displayed on screen during televising of the park event on BBC1 and BBC2.

In a taped interview, Lisa Taylor, Profile's managing director, is reported to have said that of the price of £30,000, £15-20,000 was for the hospitality unit, "so what I am really charging is between £10,000 and £15,000 for a totally national logo broadcast at prime-time viewing." She is said to have claimed that all arrangements had been approved by senior BBC executives.

Yesterday the BBC insisted that Profile had overstepped the mark. "If there proves to be any truth in these allegations, we will take strong action. We will not work with companies who do not take the reputation of the BBC as seriously as we do." A spokeswoman for BBC Radio, the organisers of the Proms, said the suggestion that company logos would be shown was "absolute nonsense".



Humphrey Carpenter, right, warned of a slanging match over his biography of Lord Runcie, top left, after media reports



MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GOODWIN

Writer defends revelations in Runcie biography

continued from page 1 Carpenter's duty to offer it — out of decency and Robert should, of course, have asked for it," she said. "It's a classic case of misunderstanding and a little bit of opportunism — the whole thing is a bit sad." Ms Ludum describes Runcie as a "very clubbable person, very easy to talk to." She said: "What I love about him is that he's been prepared to

say things that are very self-contradictory. He's not a politically correct person. In many ways he's a conservative but he has a very liberal streak and a quite off-beat radical way of thinking too. "Just before he went away he said he was going into hiding but he sounded robust and perfectly cheerful." Mr Carpenter has known Lord Runcie since he was a

teenager, since his father was Bishop of Oxford and Runcie his parish priest and a family friend at Cuddesdon outside Oxford. Mr Carpenter defends himself against the charge that "The Reluctant Archbishop is insufficiently scholarly and too lightweight by saying that his efforts to delve into the Lambeth Palace archives were disappointing because

he left a lot of things untouched. I made all the changes he asked for," says Mr Carpenter. By Mr Carpenter's reckoning, Lord Runcie is in two minds about the book: "One part of him finds it distasteful and sensationalist but he's an individual who likes being paid attention to — there's an element of the showman in him."

Lord Runcie worked by telephone and hand-written notes rather than by keeping a daily record. When the first draft was completed and presented to Lord Runcie "the blood drained from his face." But they had two marathon sessions sitting around Lord Runcie's dining room table, going through it page by page. "I was interested to see that

Turkish Cypriot soldier killed

Chris Drake in Nicosia

A TURKISH Cypriot soldier was killed and another seriously wounded yesterday after shots were fired next to a section of the British Sovereign Bases Area which separates the feuding communities in Cyprus. It was immediately feared that it could have been a revenge attack following the killing of two Greek Cypriot demonstrators last month during demonstrations at Dherynia against the Turkish occupation of the island. The shooting occurred before dawn a few miles from a Turkish guard unit based in the village of Achertouk, which Turks call Guvercinlik.



It is not far from a British military listening post where the 9th Signals Regiment is stationed. A road linking the listening post with the British base at Dhekelia runs through a zone 100 yards wide which forms a narrow inter-communal dividing line. The strip is part of British Sovereign Bases Area (SBA) territory, but does not come under United Nations control like most of the buffer zone, and is patrolled by Greek and Turkish Cypriot police working for the British.

An SBA statement said preliminary results of an investigation suggested the "criminals" responsible had crossed from the Greek Cypriot side into the north, and were technically outside its jurisdiction when they fired the shots. The statement stopped short of suggesting they were Greek Cypriots. The SBA said later that the investigation had been interrupted for several hours by the discovery of an explosive device near the site of the incident, which "may be connected with the shooting". A bomb expert defused it. The Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş branded the

shooting "cold-blooded murder", blaming Greek Cypriot political and church leaders for stirring up hatred and increasing tension. He told the local news agency: "The blood of Turks has been drunk once again. Have the church and Greek leadership satisfied their thirst?" Turkey's foreign minister, Tansu Ciller, said: "We have learnt that there was an infiltration from the English base and this soldier was shot, and I am afraid that we have found the guns used are actually similar to the guns used by the Greek [Cypriot] police and the military."

Last night, a government spokesman, Yiannakis Casoulides, said a check of all weapons carried by National Guardsmen in the area showed none had been fired. "This may be part of a planned provocation by the Turkish side to support their contention that the two communities cannot live together," he said. Efforts by the UN and international diplomats to reduce the tension of the past few weeks have failed, with the Cypriot president, Glafcos Clerides, refusing to meet Mr Denktaş.

EU summit to expose British isolation on political union

John Palmer in Tralee

BITAIN'S isolation over plans for closer political union in Europe will be laid bare next month at a special European Union summit to be held just before the Conservative Party conference. EU foreign ministers meeting in Tralee, Ireland, agreed to step up preparations to produce a draft treaty on closer union by calling a summit of heads of government on October 5. This is two days before the Conservative Party meets in

Bournemouth, where Eurosceptics plan to re-open their campaign against British participation in the single currency and against any strengthening of the Maastricht treaty. As he prepares to face a potentially stormy party conference debate, John Major is certain to resist all pressure at the Dublin summit for Britain to show a greater willingness to compromise. Ireland's government, which holds the EU presidency, is confident it will have a complete new draft European treaty ready by the end of November.

"We are determined to get such a text ready in time for the normal European Union summit to be held in Dublin during December," the Irish foreign minister, Dick Spring, said yesterday. "It may be that this text will have to include some very important square brackets where there are deep disagreements, but it should offer serious options for the heads of government to consider." The British government has so far rejected all attempts to get it to modify its opposition to any extension of majority voting by the EU Council of Ministers, any

extension of the powers of the European Parliament and any weakening of the national veto. But all the other 14 EU countries believe some reforms in the way decisions are taken are essential. "I want to see progress made on all the issues we are considering in order to make the European Union more efficient, more open and more democratic," the Commission president, Jacques Santer, said. "I hope we can create conditions for a political breakthrough in Dublin. I would only remind you we have an EU now of 15 member

states which was originally created for only six. Over the years ahead the European countries will enlarge to 25 countries. There must be changes." In another sign of mounting pressure for faster progress on a new treaty, France's president, Jacques Chirac, is to meet the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, prior to next month's Dublin summit to hammer out a joint plan of action for the Maastricht treaty negotiations. "We have a long way to go and it is essential that we give the European political union process a substantial new im-

pulse." France's foreign minister, Hervé de Charette, told journalists: "France and Germany will work closely together with other member states to see that we get the progress needed to have a formally agreed treaty under the Dutch presidency next year." For his part, the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, was remarkably upbeat about the prospects of a compromise on ways of strengthening Europe's common foreign and security policy, and even on the agreement of a common line on defence. He denied that recent disagreements among EU

governments about United States missile attacks on Iraq showed that consensus was impossible. "I believe there is a good chance that we can agree on how to move forward on foreign and security policy and defence," Mr Rifkind said. "But we will only get a single foreign policy when national governments share the same view of their interests." The Government is now ready to agree to a proposal by Finland and Sweden to include Europe's aspirations to play a role in peacekeeping and humanitarian military missions in the Maastricht treaty.

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Top awards for film depicting rise and fall of IRA hero

Derek Malcolm

THE Irish are coming. Michael Collins, Neil Jordan's film about the IRA hero, has won Venice's Golden Lion for best film after receiving a 10-minute standing ovation at its public screening.

In addition, Liam Neeson who plays Collins — and was rushed from Venice to Parma Hospital to be operated on for a blocked intestine halfway through the festival — was voted best actor by Roman Polanski's jury.

"He's not playing Bravheart and the film's not anti-British," Neil Jordan said. "It's about a man who organised an army and then tried to disperse it — which surely has a lesson for today."

Neeson insisted that the film was as much about the Irish fighting the Irish as the Brits. That seemed to be accepted, which will be a godsend for a nervous Warner's, who are putting out the film in this country but resisting the American idea of a good poster, which has Neeson waving the IRA flag.

Much more surprising than the award given to Neeson was the best actress gong, which went to Victoire Thivisol for her part in Jacques Dillone's *Ponette*. At four, the actress is the youngest to get a major festival award.

She plays, and pretty astoundingly so, a child who loses her mother in a car crash and cannot accept that she will never see her again, despite everything the father (Xavier Beauvois) can do.

The film is written and directed by Dillone with great understanding of childhood fears and fantasies.

Art was given another fair chance against commerce when the jury awarded Otar Iosseliani, the Georgian director now living in France, the special jury prize for *Brigands*, an overlong but often brilliant parable about the misuse of authority which naturally enough concentrated its fire on the Stalinist era Iosseliani knew so well.

The jury, which included novelist Paul Auster and actress Anjelica Huston, called this bitter comedy, in which contemporary crimes are mixed with medieval and each makes a parallel comment about the Communist experience, brilliant and ironic. And so it was.

Mexican director Arturo Ripstein, once an assistant for Bunuel and now in his 30th year as a director, was another festival success. His *Deep Crimson*, a subtly funny and also horrifying Latin-American take on Leonard Castle's *The Honey Moon Killers*, won three Osella d'Oro awards — for screenplay, production design and music.

This weird but rather wonderful film has a fat nurse with halitosis and an ageing gipsy with a slipping hairpiece and migraine pursuing rich widows around Mexico to grab their money. Nothing, however, goes right for them and a series of ghastly murders results.

Ken Loach's *Carla's Song*, about a Glaswegian bus driver who falls for a Nicaraguan girl and travels with her into the conflict between the Sandinistas and the Contras, won the Gold Medal of the President of the Republic for "a film which emphasises civil progress and human solidarity".

Finally, Chris Penn, Sean's less famous brother, won a best supporting actor award for Abel Ferrara's intense but cliché-ridden Mafia movie, *The Funeral*. He plays one of three brothers who seek redemption from crime by killing half his family.

Relations were good between all of us until this. I don't know why they are doing this," she added. She would not have the boy back to live with her.

"As much as I love him, there is no way I can have him living with me again. He is too disruptive, there is nothing I can do with him any more."



Liam Neeson, above, in the role of Michael Collins, top left, for which he won best actor award in Venice. Director Neil Jordan won the award for best film

The winners



Golden Lion: Michael Collins by Neil Jordan (photo above) (Ireland, US)
Special Jury Grand Prize: *Brigands* by Otar Iosseliani (France)
Best Actress: Victoire Thivisol for *Ponette* (France)
Best Actor: Liam Neeson (*Michael Collins*)
Screenplay: Deep Crimson by Arturo Ripstein (Mexico)
Production Design: Deep Crimson
Music: Deep Crimson
Gold Medal of the President of the Italian Senate: Ken Loach's *Carla's Song* (UK)
Best Supporting Actor: Chris Penn for *Abel Ferrara's The Funeral* (US)
International Critics Award: *Ponette* (France)

Hollywood star's on-screen affair put into shade by 75-year-old real-life romance

David Sharrock
Ireland Correspondent

EVEN as the life of Michael Collins reaches the screen, another woman with romantic links to the IRA leader has emerged to steal the thunder from the film plot's love interest.

Though the film portrays the smouldering passion between Liam Neeson's Collins and Julia Roberts's Kitty Tiernan, his fiancée at the time of his murder by anti-Treaty forces during the Irish civil war, a new book on the life of Lady Hazel Lavery, London society hostess and wife of the painter Sir John Lavery, suggests an altogether racier tale.

The book examines correspondence between the aristocratic Englishwoman and the working-class Irish rebel detailing their passionate relationship during the London treaty negotiations.



Collins had stumbled into an unconventional marriage. Sir John tolerated his wife's affairs with leading Irish politicians such as Kevin O'Higgins, justice minister in the first Free State government, and Charley Londonderry, later education minister in the Northern Ireland government.



Every morning he and Lady Lavery attended eight o'clock mass together in Brompton Oratory. While still writing devoted letters to Kitty Tiernan in Dublin, it is clear from Collins's letters that he was increasingly drawn to the glamorous socialite who, at 41, was 10 years his senior.

In April 1922, he wrote to her: "I know I shall never again meet anyone so beautiful, so gay, so sad as you."

At times he was moved to write her poetry, declaiming: *I am an eagle and thou art a dove / Hast thou no fear of me? / Will it not rest in the mountain above? / Will it not fly there with my wings carry thee? / Shall my wings carry thee?*

Collins gave her a Kerry Blue which she named Mick; it was said he was supposed to frighten away everyone but Hazel: *A Life of Lady Lavery* by Sinead McCool; Lilliput Press, Dublin

Boy, 11, in challenge on beating 'out of control'

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

THE mother of an 11-year-old boy challenging parents' right to use corporal punishment at the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg claimed yesterday that he was totally out of control.

The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, claims a beating with a garden cane by his stepfather when he was nine was "inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment", contravening the European Convention on Human Rights.

Today's hearing is the first stage in a challenge which, if ruled admissible, is likely to go to the European Court of Human Rights. A court ruling could limit parents' rights to discipline their children by beating them.

English law allows parents to use corporal punishment, but only to the extent of "reasonable chastisement".

They know they can get away with things. The mother is in regular contact with the boy and his father. She questioned their motives in going to Strasbourg.

Relations were good between all of us until this. I don't know why they are doing this," she added. She would not have the boy back to live with her.

The Department of Health will argue at Strasbourg that parents have a right to administer reasonable chastisement.

More than 60 British organisations support the abolition of physical punishment, following the example of Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

Morgan Grenfell compensation scheme 'could cost £100m'

Lisa Buckingham
and Ian King

DEUTSCHE Morgan Grenfell, the scandal-hit investment bank, is planning a multi-million pound compensation programme for investors in the three unit trusts it was forced to suspend last week.

City sources suggest Morgan could face a bill of about £100 million for compensation, and those likely to receive the most generous payments will be investors who bought into the funds earlier this year.

Until now, Morgan Grenfell has told investors only that it will compensate them for losses resulting from "irregularities" and has stuck to the line that its fund managers will meet their "liabilities".

Deutsche Bank, Morgan's German parent, spent about £180 million last week to meet that commitment by buying back shares in unquoted companies which had been purchased by Peter Young, the fund manager at the heart of the crisis.

The City watchdog, the Investment Management Regulatory Board, has launched a joint investigation of the affair is concluded, probably within the next six weeks. Any payment to investors will come on top of what is expected to be a fine in the region of £800,000 from the regulator.

Specialist accountants from Ernst & Young are already trawling through the web of Luxembourg-based companies set up by Mr Young. The IMRB has now asked Deloitte Touche to conduct an independent inquiry.

The aim is to identify to what extent the units were mispriced and how much investors who bought into the funds during the last year should have paid.

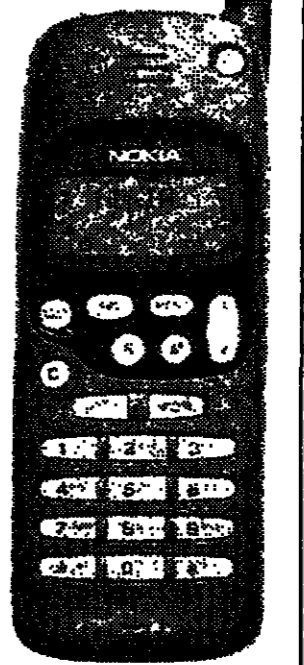
The banking group also wants to identify senior executives with responsibility for supervising Mr Young's activities, which breached in-house and City rules.

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Cellphones

A trend is emerging. Editors are younger. They are given relatively little time to make their mark. They are not the seemingly all-powerful titans of a generation ago. This transformation in their role and status reveals a great deal about the people who employ them.

Roy Greenslade on the editors

G2 page 6

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'I knew by the look on this man's face he was a danger. His eyes were glazed. He was robotic. His friends stood back and he hit Brian and dragged him to the ground'



A distraught Connie Casey during a press conference yesterday in Sydney following the murder of her boyfriend, Brian Hagland. top left

Bondi Beach killer was 'like a robot'

THE girlfriend of the British holidaymaker Brian Hagland, who was murdered near Bondi Beach at the weekend, spoke yesterday of the moment he was attacked by "a robot".

Connie Casey, aged 25, told a press conference in Sydney, Australia: "He didn't know these people. They just picked him off the street, and they killed him. He didn't stand a chance."

Miss Casey said she and Mr Hagland, who is the cousin of EastEnders actor Sid Owen, were on their way home from her leaving party from her job at the Australian Trade

Commission. It was then that Mr Hagland, a 28-year-old postman from West Hampstead, north London, and Miss Casey were approached by two youths thought to be high on drugs.

Miss Casey said: "These men were coming towards us and I just knew by the look on this man's face he was dangerous and was going to do something. I said to Brian 'don't say anything to him'. I was given a presentation of flowers from work and he was holding the flowers and holding my hand. He said 'I'm not going to do anything'."

"Then this man just ran up to him straight away and he

said 'come on, come on, let's have him'. And his friends stood back and he just punched Brian and dragged him to the ground. He was on top of him and I hit him with my bag, and was hitting and hitting him because my bag was quite heavy."

Miss Casey said she then went to get help. "When I came back he was unconscious and he was covered in blood. It happened in minutes. I didn't think it was serious at first." Of the man who attacked Mr Hagland, she said: "His eyes were glazed. He was robotic. He looked as if he didn't even see Brian."

She said that she had

known Mr Hagland for seven years and they had travelled to Australia with compensation she had received after being a victim of a robbery in which she was doused with petrol by thieves who threatened to set her alight.

Mr Hagland's mother Shirley, of West Hampstead, has told how Miss Casey had hoped the trip would settle her nerves after the hold-up last year while she was working in a jewellers in Kilburn, north London.

Mrs Hagland told the People newspaper yesterday: "She was a very nervous girl because of what happened then, so God knows what this

will have done to her. When she rang to tell us the terrible news, she said she was drenched in Brian's blood as she tried to save him. I couldn't believe he was dead and broke down."

The couple had planned to get engaged in Tahiti later in the year. Miss Casey was in Australia on a work visa while Mr Hagland had a six-month travel visa.

A spokeswoman for Sydney police said they believe Mr Hagland's attacker was injured during the struggle as they found a trail of blood along Bondi Beach.

Mr Hagland's murder is the latest in a series of violent in-

cidents which have damaged the reputation of the famous mile-long beach in recent years.

Last Christmas rioting broke out when gangs of youths went on the rampage in the early hours of Boxing Day after the traditional festive beach party. In April, a Dorset backpacker Gawen Whalley, aged 22, was stabbed to death by a gang of youths as he walked on a neighbouring beach.

Australian police have spoken of a worrying new trend of "thrill seeking" attacks which are totally motiveless and often carried out by people high on drugs.

Pope backs search for Ulster peace

David Sharrock
Ireland Correspondent

THE Pope yesterday threw his weight behind the search for peace in Northern Ireland when he called for courage from those involved in the all-party talks which resume at Stormont today after a summer of sectarian conflict.

Pope John Paul told pilgrims at his summer residence south of Rome that the Protestant and Catholic communities both desired an end to violence.

"They have given proof that peace and reconciliation are possible if everyone has the courage to embrace the path of dialogue, mutual understanding, respect for the legitimate rights of each person and, above all, human rights," he said after his regular Sunday angelus address.

The Pope said he hoped political leaders and others able to influence opinion would "pursue the true good of the beloved people of Northern Ireland and thus contribute to a true and just peace".

The talks resume today at Castle Buildings in east Belfast amid gloomy forecasts and as Protestants and Catholics appear more polarised by the events of this summer's marching season than for many years.

The Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party and the non-sectarian Alliance Party have asked the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, to decide if the two small loyalist parties which represent the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Defence Association can remain at the negotiating table while a death threat hangs over a former UVF

prisoner and Portadown hooligan, Billy Wright.

Members of the Ulster Democratic Party have been urged to distance themselves from the warning by the Combined Loyalist Military Command to Mr Wright, aged 38, to get out of Northern Ireland.

The multi-party negotiations will resume with an official objection lodged before the chairman, US Senator George Mitchell. It is then up to the British and Irish governments to decide if they should be allowed to stay.

The Democratic Unionists claim the threat is in breach of the Mitchell principles of non-violence and unless the loyalist representatives disassociate themselves, they should be barred. The DUP is unlikely to take part in full discussions until the decision is made.

Sir Patrick admitted at the weekend that the talks will be extremely difficult after Drumcree, where Orangemen staged a successful stand-off against the RUC.

Sir Patrick, addressing a British-Irish Association conference at Oxford, also admitted there had been a lack of insight into the intensity of feeling on both sides at the time of the stand-off, which brought Northern Ireland to a virtual halt.

"Nobody committed to peace and to the rule of law can look back on those dire events and see them as a victory," Sir Patrick said. "They were a defeat for the Province as a whole, for the democratic process and for all those who support and depend for their liberty upon the rule of law."

He admitted political progress had been "maddeningly slow" but said the resumed talks "are the only real game in town".

Young 'should not face trial'

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

CHILDREN under the age of 14 should no longer face prosecution in adult courts, Britain's leading professional magistrate says in a book published today.

Peter Badge, the chief metropolitan stipendiary magistrate, calls for radical changes to the system under which children as young as 10 can be tried for murder or manslaughter in the crown court.

In Children Who Kill he and other experts call for England and Wales to be brought into line with most other European countries and the US, which deal with young children who kill through the child care system. The age of criminal responsibility in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (10) and Scotland (eight) are among the lowest in the world.

In France the age of criminal responsibility is 13, in Germany, Austria, Italy and many east European countries 14, in Scandinavia 15, in Spain, Portugal and Poland 16, and in Belgium and Luxembourg 18. In England and Wales children can be prosecuted between the ages of 10 and 14 if it can be proven they knew what they did was wrong.

Mr Badge wants children under 14 to be dealt with by an expanded form of the fam-

ily proceedings court. Special tribunals would decide guilt or innocence and other relevant issues of fact for those between 14 and 18.

"This should be made up of a special judge and two special lay magistrates; those selected should have the right inclinations, the right experience and, above all, the correct amount of training. There should be a second tribunal, a sentencing panel, consisting of a special judge, two special lay magistrates, an appropriately trained and experienced psychiatrist and a similarly trained and experienced social worker."

The book comes out of a recent London conference on juvenile killers, attended by judges, social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists from the US, Canada and 17 European countries.

Many foreign commentators have criticised the system under which Robert Thompson and Jon Venables, who abducted and killed the 12-year-old toddler James Bulger in 1993, were tried aged 11 in an adult court.

Lawyers for the two have filed a claim with the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg, arguing that the trial, which made little concession to their youth, breached their human rights.

Figures show that killings by youngsters under 14 are rare and are not increasing. Between 1979 and 1994, eight were convicted of murder and four of manslaughter.

Labour hits at union's 'bully-boy tactics' over disruptive pupils

Teachers may face court action warns local government group

John Carvel
Education Editor

TEACHERS threatening strike action to force the expulsion of unruly pupils may be taken to court for contempt, under plans being considered by the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities to counter "bully-boy tactics".

Graham Lane, the association's education chairman, said councils were worried by last week's intervention by Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, to stop a 10-year-old returning to his class at a Nottinghamshire junior school.

After threatening industrial action, the union persuaded the governors of Man-

chester junior school in Worksop that Matthew Wilson should be taught by an outsider in isolation from staff and other pupils.

"We cannot accept the use of these bully-boy tactics to undermine the normal appeals procedure and damage the reputation of a child. We will be taking legal advice on the best form of judicial action open to us if this happens to one of our member authorities," Mr Lane said.

The union appeared to be acting in contempt of "quasi-judicial procedures" for handling appeals by parents against their children's expulsion from school, he said.

"We are seeking judicial action to uphold the rights of the pupils. The teachers concerned might find we dock their pay for breach of contract. That is one avenue we

would go down in the end.

"The names of children are being drifted across the newspapers when they have not found guilty of any offences worthy of expulsion. We have to take the unions on to prevent this undermining of natural rights."

Mr Lane backed the Government's proposed reform of procedures for parents to appeal against an expulsion.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, wanted appeals panels to consider the interests of other children at the school as much as the interests of the expelled pupil.

Mr de Gruchy said it was outrageous for a Labour spokesman to attack balloted industrial action. "I thought Tony Blair was bad enough, but it is disappointing when someone like Graham Lane tries to out-Tony the Tories" using the Tory legislation to allow youngsters to continue battering their teachers and other pupils. "They are the

ones using bully-boy tactics on other kids. What about teachers' rights and other children's rights to go about their business without being threatened with physical assault."

Mothers with children at the Worksop school were understood to be planning a picket today in protest at the appointment of a £14,000-a-year special needs teacher to supervise Matthew Wilson.

"If the authorities have money to throw about like this they should spend it for the benefit of all the children. There are plenty of pupils needing one-to-one tuition. Why should a disruptive child be given preference?" said one mother, Wendy Watson.

Matthew's mother, 37-year-old Pamela Cliffe, who claims he is no more than high-spirited and "a bit of a devil", said: "I don't understand the situation. Matthew has been through hell over the past few weeks and needs help. I am tired of all the arguing."

News in brief

Blair faces tough time in Scotland

TONY BLAIR can expect a frosty reception from Labour activists when he arrives in Scotland this morning for a two-day tour that has turned into an enforced peace mission following the party's volte face on a devolution referendum.

Tonight Mr Blair faces an audience of 800 in Aberdeen for a question and answer session. "He wants the questioning to be as hard as possible," a Labour spokesman said yesterday. The party leader is certain to be interrogated about his role in Friday's jettisoning of the second devolution referendum agreed by the party's Scottish executive only six days earlier.

That, plus the imposition of the now reluctantly-accepted first referendum, touched the raw nerve of the Scottish party's status vis a vis the national organisation. Although it likes to consider itself sovereign on matters of policy north of the border, the Scottish executive is constitutionally a sub-committee of the national executive. — *Erlend Clouston*

Pollution threat to lakes

AN OFFICIAL study saying nearly all Britain's lakes are polluted yesterday brought calls from environmental campaigners for tighter controls on industry and agriculture.

Research for the Environment Agency found that 85.6 per cent of Britain's 12,500 or more lakes had been significantly polluted. Popular lakes, including Windermere and Loch Lomond, were among the worst affected. An Environment Agency spokesman said the agency was working closely with industry to improve sewage treatment, and talking with farmers on the dangers of intensive use of fertilisers.

A spokesman for Friends of the Earth said: "It is vital the Government takes immediate control of the situation."

Lottery 'to bring 13,000 jobs'

AN ECONOMIST yesterday predicted that the National Lottery will create or safeguard more than 13,000 jobs in the next five years. Jeremy Peat, chief economist at the Royal Bank of Scotland, also calculated the lottery will assist the construction industry by £1.3 billion a year.

London would attract £316 million in construction spending, or \$46 per head, twice the UK average. Construction spending is second highest in Scotland at £141 million. The South-east and the North-west of England, and Wales are forecast to exceed £100 million each year, while in Northern Ireland the sum will be £27 million.

Five people shared Saturday's £8.1 million jackpot — with winning numbers 5, 13, 15, 44, 18, 32, and bonus number 41.

'Pusher' constable arrested

A POLICE constable was arrested yesterday following a claim that he is a drug pusher. The Sunday Mail reported that Euan Ranson, aged 26 and an officer in the Grampian force, sold a reporter ecstasy tablets and offered to supply cocaine.

The force said that allegations were being investigated. Grampian last week became the first police force in Britain to bring in drug-testing. — *Erlend Clouston*

Labour promises to match Major plan letter for letter

Political staff

LABOUR last night promised to match the 2,600,000 individually addressed letters that John Major plans to send this week at a cost of well over £500,000.

The letters will go by second class post to an average of 35,000 uncommitted voters in each of 104 key seats across the country in what will be the biggest direct-mail "hit" by a political party in this country.

The scale of the operation took Labour by surprise. It will cost almost as much as the legal limit for campaign spending in each constituency, though it will not count because the election has not been called.

But Labour is determined to use some of its new-found prosperity to reach the same voters with a letter from Tony Blair, though it will have to be delivered by party members, not by the Royal Mail.

Mr Major's letter starts in the cosy fireside chat style used by the pre-war Tory prime minister, Stanley Baldwin: "Dear Mr & Mrs X, I would like to take a few mo-

ments of your time to set out my message direct to you about our country."

"I know that the last years have been difficult for many people."

It goes on to explain how the recession forced the Government to raise taxes. "I disliked raising taxes because my instinct is to cut them but it was necessary to put our country on an even keel."

He then lists nine taxes he claims Labour is planning (tenage tax, utilities tax, tartan tax, London tax, company car tax, graduate tax, higher council tax, private health tax, telephone tax) and asks people to vote on them.

In a PS he says he is including "sources and quotes from the Labour Party to substantiate the information in this letter."

Labour is already feeling provoked at the apparently bottomless war chest the Tories are using to finance the latest "demon eyes" poster campaign.

The Representation of the People Act limits election spending to roughly £9,000 to £10,000 per constituency, but the limit only comes into play once a campaign begins.

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School warned not to exclude 5-year-old boy having HIV test

John Carvel
Education Editor

THE Government warned last night that a 5-year-old boy who is undergoing HIV tests after stabbing himself with drug addicts' abandoned syringes should not be excluded from primary school, in spite of protests by parents.

Robert Lee found the discarded needles near his home in Grantham, Lincolnshire, and stuck them into his hands four times, imitating his diabetic grandmother's insulin injections. He was taken to hospital for an Aids test and hepatitis vaccinations.

His mother, Joanne Lee, said Robert was ordered home on Friday by the head teacher at Huntingtower Road primary school after parents complained he might pose a risk to their children's health. It was his first week at school.

"I will be taking him back to school tomorrow, but I don't know what will happen when I get there. She it would be three months before the results of tests were known.

Parents with children at the school the boy banned until he is given the all-clear. Mike Wentworth, the head teacher, was not available for comment.

However, the Department for Education and Employment said the 1944 Education Act did not allow schools to ban pupils on health grounds.

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The Guardian
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Labour's best hope 'with young women'

LABOUR'S strongest support is coming from women under the age of 35, according to a report out today from the Fawcett Society. They are significantly more likely to vote Labour than men of the same age.

Older women make up for them by being much more inclined to vote Conservative than older men, so that women are still on average more likely to vote Tory.

The report shows that this "gender gap" featured in all elections from 1945 to 1983, disappeared in 1987 but re-emerged at the last election and is now 7 per cent in the latest MORI polls.

'Parties should pay more attention to differences in how women vote'

It would be more accurate, however, to call it a "generation gap" as it is a combination of younger women being 3 per cent more Labour and older women being 11 per cent more Tory.

Men, by contrast, voted at the last election in almost exactly the same way regardless of their age. There was a five-point Tory lead among the youngest and six points among the oldest.

It may be that this generation of younger women will become more Tory as they get older, but may remain more leftwing, radicalised maybe by the feminist movement.

The gender gap was at its greatest in the 1950s when women were least likely to go out to work. It reached 17 points in 1961 and 1965 and was still 11 points when the Tories won in 1970.

It can be argued that women were the key to Conservative successes in this period," says Mary-Ann Stephenson, author of the report. "Had women voted in the same way as men, there would have been an unbroken period of Labour government

from 1945 to 1979." Now the gender gap is smaller, but it is still important because of the longevity factor - there are more women over 55 than men. John Major can be said to owe his last election victory to women over 65 who provided 2 million of his 14 million votes.

But the Fawcett Society, which campaigns on gender equality, says parties should pay more attention to other differences in the way women vote if they want to attract their votes.

Women are conscientious: 82 per cent of them voted at the last election, compared with 79 per cent of men. Coupled with the fact that there are more women than men, this means a million more women vote.

Women are more likely to be floating voters. One woman in six decided how to vote in the last few days of the 1992 election campaign, while that was true of only one man in nine.

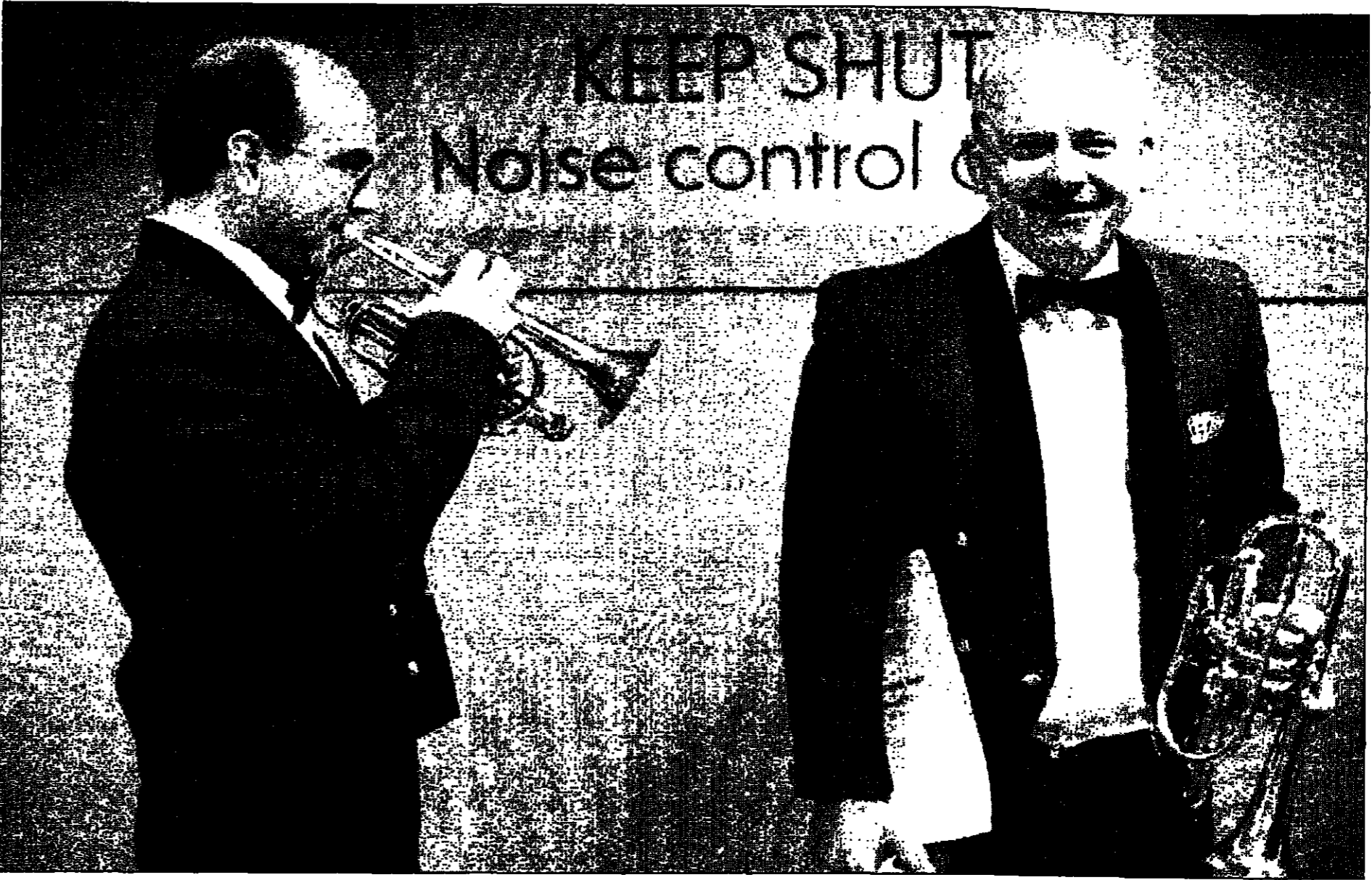
In this year's polls nearly one woman in four is still saying she "doesn't know how she would vote if there were a general election tomorrow" while only one man in six says the same.

Young voters are the least likely to have made up their minds, and there again young women are 1 1/2 times as likely to be floating voters as young men.

Women are more distrustful of politicians. Although Tony Blair is the most trusted party leader among both sexes, he is trusted by more men than women and liked by more men (56 to 49 per cent). Equally, women are more distrustful of parties, especially Labour; 34 per cent of men trust Labour, but only 23 per cent of women.

Women are concerned about much the same issues as men, but they have different priorities. They are more likely than men to support a party on the grounds of health, pensions or education. Men are more likely to vote on crime, tax and the economy.

Winning Women's Votes, Fawcett Society, 45 Beech St, London EC2Y 8AD



Time for a tootle... Members of the Halls Band warm up for their turn before the judges at the British Open Brass Band Competition in Manchester

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS THOMSON

Win for penniless band is brass in pocket

David Ward sits through 22 performances of Elgar to hear a musical minnow go from last to first in the annual brass band open

SHORTLY before 9 am three men were led to the circle of Manchester's beautiful new concert hall and shown their places behind black curtains that obliterated their view of the platform and the audience's view of them.

Once in their black box, the trio, judges at Saturday's 14th Annual British Brass Band Open Championship, were not permitted to leave, for the rules state they must not know which bands are playing or have any contact with public or musicians. For more than eight hours 22 bands took turns to play the test piece, Elgar's Severn Suite. Some might wonder how three blokes can possibly listen to 22 performances without ending up in the Worcester-shire County Lunatic Asylum, whose band Elgar once directed. The rest of us will be more curious to know how they can manage without going to the lavatory.

They were supplied with a mobile facility. In the old days judges were offered only a pail of sand. Players used to say that if, during their performance, they heard the sound of piss hitting bucket, they knew their band had had it.

Other bands waited in the green room. "Can we play a bit?" asked a member of Right Containers from Northamptonshire. "Just a tootle," replied an official. "We don't want any slates off."

Few of the 660 players were women, although according to this week's British Bandsman, Black Dyke were fielding a woman for the first time since their formation in 1835: mother-of-two Debbie French on percussion. Debbie makes Dyke history, said the ambiguous headline.

Catherine, serve in their Glossop pub, he plied his players on to a Manchester tram and took them off ten pin bowling.

Black Dyke Mills were drawn first and launched boldly into Elgar's melody evoking Worcester Castle. If a bookie had been allowed in the Bridgewater Hall's marble-floored precincts, Black Dyke would have been clear favourites. They have won the Open 27 times and were winners last year.

Earlier, the Marple Band from Cheshire, a penniless musical minnow, had been drawn to play last. "I was devastated," said their secretary, Eileen Murphy. But the conductor, Garry Cutt, said not to worry. Cool as the lager he and his wife,

but remained anonymous. "They say women don't get into bands because they may lead the men astray," she snorted. "That's prehistoric. You have to be twice as good as any bloke to be taken seriously."

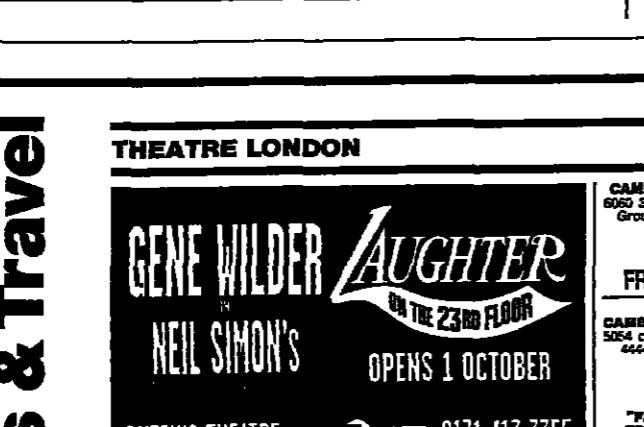
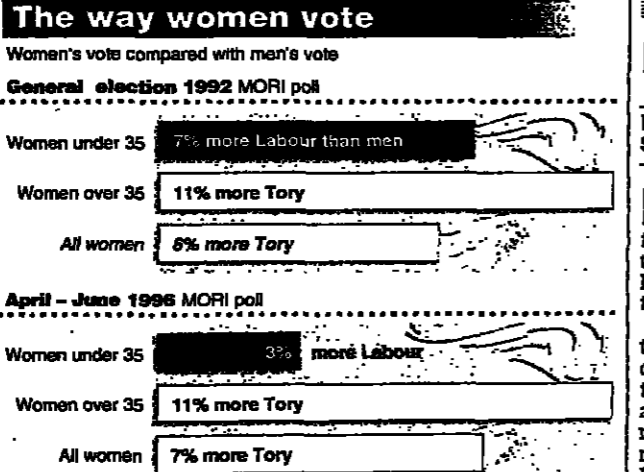
Back in the green room, Geoffrey Whitham, conductor of Wingates, considered what makes a winner. "I've had bands playing out of their skins at rehearsal, and then go to pieces on the platform. Something special will happen with one of the bands here today and make them win."

The three judges emerged blinking into the light and awarded the British Open Gold Challenge Trophy, the Belle Vue Challenge Cup, and £2,500 to the Marple Band. And the Stanley Wainwright Memorial Trophy for the best soloist went to Helen Fox, Marple's principal cornet. Mrs Murphy, the secretary, was so overwhelmed that she had four gin and tonics.

Marple is broke. It came by train because it could not afford to hire a bus, and has not paid its conductor since the spring.

"This victory means that old-style banding is back. I just cannot believe it," said Mrs Murphy.

Yesterday Mr Cutt, the conductor, was back pulling punts at the Wheat-sheaf. "I told the band that they had to make the first eight bars count," he said. "I'm told that when the judges heard them they put down their pens and said, 'That's the one.'"



Prejudiced firms warned over jobs for blind

DAVID BRINDLE, Social Services Correspondent

EMPLOYERS have less than three months to rethink their attitudes towards taking on disabled people, the Royal National Institute for the Blind warns today.

The Disability Discrimination Act taking effect on December 2 will make it illegal to discriminate against disabled people in the labour market. Yet prejudice remains widespread, the RNIB says.

According to a survey by the independent Institute of Employment Studies, 51 per cent of employers would not take on anybody who had difficulty seeing.

The RNIB is this week launching initiatives designed to raise awareness of employment difficulties among the estimated 100,000 people of working age in Britain with sight difficulties. A sample of 60 such people interviewed by the charity, 63 per cent were not in work, 52 per cent had not worked in 10 years, and 53 per cent were on or below a poverty line.

Historic fight inspires right to roam campaigners

RIGHT to roam campaigners yesterday vowed to fight plans to curb access in urban areas as ramblers celebrated a historic victory from a classic "mass trespass" campaign launched a century ago.

As 700 people marched from the suburbs of Bolton to the grit stone moorlands of Winter Hill to commemorate the liberation of Coalpit Lane, they heard warnings of new proposals to curb walkers' rights in urban areas.

Concerned organisations will meet this week to discuss proposals for a "curfew" on urban footpaths, said Donald Lee, the Greater Manchester Area spokesman for the Open Spaces Society. The proposals appeared in detail in a Department of Transport document open for consultation until November 1.

He said: "These footpaths would be closed during the hours of darkness on grounds of security and criminal activity, but these are unfenced areas that could easily be extended, and that's very dangerous."

Winning Women's Votes

Women's vote compared with men's vote

General election 1992 MORI poll

Women under 35: 7% more Labour than men

Women over 35: 11% more Tory

All women: 6% more Tory

April - June 1996 MORI poll

Women under 35: 3% more Labour

Women over 35: 11% more Tory

All women: 7% more Tory

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MUSIC EXTRA

SUMMER SALE

GENERAL

COMEDY

WEST COUNTRY

FLIGHT MARKET

OVERSEAS

Italy set for week of farce and fury

In the first of a series on separatism in Europe, **John Hooper** in Rome reports on the national wannabes of 'Padania'

THE former Greek prime minister and later president, Constantine Karanmanlis, once claimed his country was a giant lunatic asylum with 10 million inmates. There are students of Italian politics who believe much the same could be said of Italy. Events over the coming week are likely to confirm them in that view.

At the centre of what a newspaper columnist predicted will be "the most colossal political farce ever seen in Europe" is a wannabe country that has no common ethnic, linguistic or cultural heritage. It has never spawned a conventional nationalist movement, and which not even its promoters can define.

area the size of England and Wales. In reality, few people apart from Mr Bossi want secession. Only 20 per cent of voters in regions which the league says form Padania backed the party at the last general election in April. Polls show that those who want to break up Italy are in a minority even among league voters.

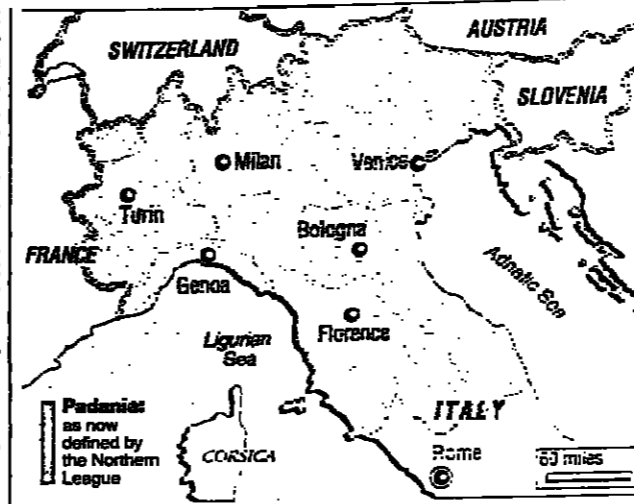
That is equally true of Mr Bossi's elected representatives. A few weeks ago, some of them were hinting broadly that the real aim of his threatened "secession" was to push the government in Rome to agree to a federal structure. Yet the new state is to be "baptised" at a ceremony in Turin on Friday. The following day, coaches are due to block bridges over the Po at Pavia, while at Mantua there are plans for a symbolic Padania versus Italy football match.

On Sunday, Mr Bossi is to make his way in a convoy of boats to the Po delta. There, at Chioggia, where a bonfire will be formed with facsimile radio and television licences in a protest against the RAI state broadcasting corporation. Mr Bossi is to proclaim UDI during a speech on the Campo Santo Stefano in Venice.

In view of the apparent lack of support for it, it might seem that the league leader has lost touch with reality. Professor Renato Mannheimer, of the University of Genoa, who has carried out several studies of the movement, thinks not. "What Bossi is trying to do is to exploit a growing discontent with the political parties — the idea that they are all the same," he said. "The more he is attacked, the more he gets the votes of those who believe they are all the same."

Certainly, Mr Bossi has been vilified and/or warned by most of the other party leaders, as well as by President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro. Next weekend, he faces counter-demonstrations by, among others, Greens and former neo-fascists. A group of veterans plans to wrap a bridge over the River Brenta in huge Italian flags. And the far-right mayor of the southern city of Taranto is due to be joined by a hundred "neo-Garibaldians" from near Rome in a protest at the site of the league's annual rallies.

In much of this there is a characteristically Italian touch of comic opera. But things could get out of hand. There is an ugly side to the league, and since the general election Mr Bossi seems to have been doing his best to encourage it. In a recent speech, he referred to southerners with the perjorative term *terroni*, which has the connotation of peasants or yokels.



While insisting that the league wants a mutually agreed separation such as that between the Czechs and the Slovaks, he has also appeared to invite comparison with Italy's fascist dictator Benito Mussolini. The advance on Venice will be similar to a re-run of the fascists' "March on Rome".

His party security force, the Green Shirts, echoes the fascists' Black Shirts. Its leader, a former karate instructor, last week threatened to use firearms on protesters from the south, adding that the mayor of Taranto would "not return home" if he showed up for Saturday's protest.

Underlying such extreme attitudes is growing discontent in the north over the inefficiency of a state apparatus for which many feel they pay too high taxes. "If you ask people up here, you find that very, very few are separatist," said Prof Mannheimer. "But that does not mean that if the government fails to react, a lot of them could not follow lead."

Croat bastion waves flag of co-operation

Bosnian Elections
But the thaw in ties with Muslims may be a ploy, paving the way for partition, **Julian Borger** in Siroki Brijeg writes

AS IS customary at an election rally, there are flags everywhere — on the ubiquitous posters, picked out in stone on a distant hillside, and in the tireless hands of children. But what is striking about this particular corner of Bosnia-Herzegovina is that the flags are all Croatian. There is no Bosnian insignia in sight. The party holding the rally, the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), has its headquarters in Zagreb, the Croatian capital. The speeches from the podium celebrate the achievements and rail at the disappointments of "us Croats".

Brijeg housewife married to a member of the Bosnian Croat militia, said: "I don't think Herzeg-Bosnia is possible any more. We are under a lot of pressure to join the federation, and that is what Zagreb seems to want." The election-time thaw in relations between Croats and Muslims is also noticeable in the divided city of Mostar, 15 miles further east. Since local elections in June, a unified city council has been formed with a Croat mayor and a Muslim deputy.

Expulsions of Muslims from Croat-run west Mostar have continued, but there are signs of a change in the tide. Of 12 Muslim families expelled since early August, five have been reinstated in their flats under Croat police protection in the past week. Sir Martin Garrod, the European Union special envoy who brokered the formation of the Mostar council, believes the experiment holds out a modicum of hope for the creation of multi-ethnic institutions after next Saturday's countrywide elections. "If you have an administration which is catering for the wishes, desires, aspirations and the security of both sides you are far less likely to slip back into anarchy and bloodshed," he said.

However, many observers of Bosnia's ethnic politics fear the shift towards co-operation with Muslims is temporary and tactical, while the election sets the scene for a long-term drift to partition. "Herzeg-Bosnia has been put on the back burner for now, while Tudjman is going for membership of the Council of Europe and so on. But we're going to come out of these elections with this place even tighter under his control and even more detachable from the rest of Bosnia," said a Western diplomat in Mostar. The HDZ is poised to fortify its already fearsome hold on western Herzegovina on Saturday. It is the only party visible — its opposition has been intimidated out of public life.

Herzeg-Bosnia is on a back burner. The elections will make it even more detachable from the rest of Bosnia.



A young Bosnian Serb supporter at a Serbian Democratic Party rally in the town of Rogatica wears a mask of Radovan Karadzic. PHOTOGRAPH: ENRICH MARTI

I-For ready to guard ballot with the bullet

David Fairhall
Defence Correspondent
CONSCIOUS that their chances of getting home for Christmas or the New Year may well depend on the successful conduct of this month's Bosnian elections, soldiers of the Nato-led I-For peace implementation force are making every effort to ensure that the voting is not disrupted by violence.

Formal responsibility for running the elections lies with the OSCE (Organisation for Co-operation and Security in Europe), supposedly protected by local police backed by an international police task force. But military commanders have given all kinds of assistance, from checking polling stations for mines to offering to guard ballot boxes on their way to and from Sarajevo.

This week new guidance cards will be issued to the troops, detailing how the already "robust" Nato rules of engagement should be applied during the election. More than 3,000 polling stations, unused since 1991, will be needed for the national and regional elections. (Local council elections were postponed, amid protests, last week.) Every one of the stations has been checked by military reconnaissance parties in the past six weeks to see if they are still usable.

In the south-west sector of Bosnia — where most of Britain's 10,000 troops are working with Canadians, Czechs, Dutch and Malaysians under the command of Major General John Kiszely at Banja Luka — each station that is still available has been mapped to show how it can be approached safely without encountering landmines.

I-For is also helping to distribute information on how to register and exactly where people should go to vote. "The procedure will work because we are going to make it work," said Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Brook, the sector commander's spokesman. For Bosnian refugees living in Croatia, Serbia, Germany, Turkey and elsewhere, voting began last week. Members of the various local militias vote on September 13 and the main civilian vote is cast on September 14. The plan is to take ballot boxes under military guard to Sarajevo where the displaced persons' voting papers will be added, and then returned to local stations for counting. The whole process will be monitored by about 1,200 international observers, who began arriving last week.

Beauty is skin deep in Miss Italy race row



John Hooper in Rome
THE Miss Italy contest ended in uproar on Saturday night when the title was won by a black immigrant. Whispers of disapproval were audible above the applause as Dominican-born Denny Mendez burst into tears on stage. Still crying, she was crowned by a juror who hours earlier had said a black should not represent Italian womanhood.

Yesterday, newspapers added fuel to the controversy: La Stampa headlined its story "Denny Mendez is the first Miss Black"; Il Giornale declared "Miss Italy is Dominican". In fact, the winner is an Italian citizen and has an Italian father. The competition organisers say Ms Mendez, aged 18, not only won most jury

votes but was the choice of television viewers. Despite many Italians' passionate insistence that they are not racist, to outsiders the definition of who qualifies as Italian seems restricted. Half-Italians, for example, are often referred to as foreigners. Ironically, it was a half-Italian, the fashion photographer "Bob" Krieger, who prompted the row last week. In an interview, he said Ms Mendez should not be chosen because "she does not represent the beauty that is typical of Italy". Mr Krieger was thrown off the panel of judges. On Saturday, another

Judge, Alba Parietti, said she agreed. She too was expelled, but reinstated after a bizarre semi-retraction. "I let slip my thoughts, not being aware of the rules, which allow any girl of Italian nationality, whatever her colour, to take part," she said. Ms Parietti crowned the winner. Mr Allen insisted it would be possible to select a winner of the 274,000 prize, whose past winners include W. B. Yeats, George Bernard Shaw, T. S. Eliot, Jean-Paul Sartre and Gabriel Garcia Marquez. "Fortune favours more than enough," he declared. "Those that are there are working enthusiastically and I'm confident everyone will turn up when it counts."

Book thrown at Nobel judges

Jon Henley in Helsinki

THE characterisation is undeniably strong and the suspense masterly, but the committee that awards the world's most prestigious writing prize is in danger of losing the plot. Riven by internal feuds and depleted by the absence of elderly and infirm members, the Swedish Academy may not have enough members to award this year's Nobel Prize for Literature.

A rule dating from 1901, when the prize was first awarded, requires at least 12 of the committee's 18 members to select the winner. But only 14 currently attend the academy's deliberations in Stockholm, and — according to the Swedish press — more are likely to drop out soon. "There is a real risk that the 12 votes necessary will be difficult to obtain," the Expressen newspaper said. "Several members are sick, and others are just fed up."

The academy is banned from recruiting replacements by a decree from Sweden's King Gustav III, who ruled more than 200 years ago that members must serve for life. "You can be thrown out or die, but you can't resign," said Sture Allen, a professor of linguistics and the academy's controversial secretary. "It can get a bit difficult, but people clearly want to leave while they're still alive."

Two members, the authors Kerstin Ekman and Lars Gyllenstein, have not attended the meetings since 1989, when Mr Allen refused to allow the academy to announce Tran's fate on Swedish radio. A third member, Werner Aspenstrom, a writer aged 78, has also stopped attending, saying he no longer has the energy for committees.

This week Knut Ahnlund, a respected professor of literature, said he would boycott the proceedings until Mr Allen was replaced. "The official duties of the academy should be delegated to more academy members. Mr Allen is on practically every committee there is," he said. At least one other ageing member, Johannes Edelfelt, who will be 92 this year, has said he feels tired and has nothing left to contribute to the discussions.

▶ If we don't have feminism, men won't change: why should they, if we're saying they are all right as they are? We cannot give up on politics unless we really do believe this is as good as it gets.
Charlotte Raven on the state of feminism

G2 page 10

مكتبة النور

I fury



Troops of Baghdad's new-found ally, the Kurdistan Democratic Party, stand guard near Irbil at the weekend against attack by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. PHOTOGRAPH: NURI KAYMAK

US plays down reports of Baghdad's involvement • Refugees flee as last Talabani base threatened

Iraq's Kurdish allies take key towns

Chris Nurtall near Irbil, northern Iraq

GUERRILLAS of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan were pushed further back towards their last stronghold of Sulaymaniyah yesterday, as the PUK's radio and television stations reported the heavy involvement of Iraqi forces in the advance of their rival, the Kurdistan Democratic Party.

Besieged PUK guerrillas pleaded for United States help after their defences crumbled under an assault by the KDP, which in just hours captured the key junction of Degala, 20 miles south-east of the regional capital Irbil, and then the town of Kuysanjaq.

"Urgent and decisive help is needed. We call on the US-led coalition to move urgently to stop the Iraqi onslaught," the PUK said in a statement.

The KDP denied Iraqi involvement, at least in the Degala takeover, but it was not clear if Baghdad's forces were directly involved in the capture of Kuysanjaq.

The PUK media's reports on the clashes prompted a flood of refugees south in coaches, trucks, minibuses, cars and even bulldozers, loaded with beds, blankets, utensils and television sets.

They spoke of heavy Iraqi shelling, armoured vehicles on the road and even the use of chemical weapons. There was no evidence to support this and the chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff, Gen-

eral John Shalikashvili, played down the reports of Baghdad's involvement.

"I don't know to what degree there's active assistance," he said. "But what you're seeing is Kurdish fighting. The United States, rather than siding with one Kurdish faction... has always put its effort on trying to get the two sides together to resolve their differences."

The KDP has now secured the approaches to Irbil which it captured on August 31 with the support of President Saddam Hussein's forces. It may press on to seize the Dukan dam to the east, from where the PUK cut Irbil's water supply and created a power crisis.

"Now we push Jalal Talabani [the PUK leader] all the way back to his Iran," said

one smiling KDP fighter at a checkpoint yesterday, referring to Mr Talabani's alleged alliance with Tehran.

In Sulaymaniyah, the fear is not so much of the KDP to the north-west but of Iraqi armour, 50 miles to the south. Each evening in the city of more than a million people, many Kurds go through the ritual of packing their cars with possessions, ready to flee if Baghdad's forces attack during the night.

Their nightmare became reality in 1991, when Sulaymaniyah was sacked by Iraqi forces suppressing a Kurdish uprising. Suburbs were razed and helicopter gunships attacked refugees fleeing to the mountains and Iran.

"People feel it is not a matter of if, but when, Saddam is

coming," said Ian Wilderspin, the acting field director of the Save the Children Fund in the city. A suitcase lay open by his desk, filled with books and a framed photograph.

The aid organisations are worried that their five years of hard work in putting the Kurds back on their feet could be wiped out. Significant progress had been made in the rehabilitation of villages and in improving agricultural methods.

Already the suspension of humanitarian aid to the Kurds through the oil-for-food provisions of United Nations Resolution 986, following the capture of Irbil, threatens a food crisis.

Iraq said its air defence units engaged a US warplane violating its air space yesterday.

day but missed, although the intruder was forced to flee. On Saturday, it said it had fired missiles at US planes policing the no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq.

Ankara's foreign minister, Tansu Ciller, said yesterday that Turkey ultimately planned to monitor Kurdish rebel activity in northern Iraq with an electronic system, eliminating the need to keep troops there.

Turkey has said a security zone, which would be temporary, is needed to halt infiltration by separatist rebels of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Turkish troops have been massing on the border with Iraq in apparent readiness to push against the PKK.

Saddam's assault on Irbil broke CIA-funded operation

Jeffrey Smith in Washington reports on a secret fund to destabilise Baghdad and the apparent execution of more than 100 Iraqis

THE Iraqi military's takeover of Irbil, which was controlled by independent Kurdish groups, broke up a long-standing CIA-funded covert operation to destabilise the Baghdad government and led to the arrest and apparent execution of more than 100 Iraqis associated with the effort, according to United States officials and Iraqi dissident sources.

The destruction of the headquarters in Irbil of the Iraqi National Congress, which Washington had set up in 1982 as an alternative to the regime of President Saddam Hussein, has fulfilled a main ambition of the Iraqi security services,

and addresses of National Congress members, according to officials of the group in Sulaymaniyah, and in Washington and London. The security agents looted the group's headquarters, seizing hi-tech communications equipment and computers, purchased with millions of dollars in covert CIA funds.

The apparent execution of more than 100 Congress members captured by the Iraqi secret police on August 31 near the town of Qushatpa has added to the CIA's loss. They had assembled in Irbil on August 28-29 as part of a police force being created at US urging to halt Kurdish in-fighting.

"We have a lot of reports that the Congress was a subject of the Iraqi effort," a senior state department official said. Two other senior US officials said the group's reports of mass exe-

cutions had been accepted by Washington as credible, although details of the episodes are scarce.

National Congress officials in Iraq and elsewhere said hundreds of others whom the Iraqi security agents suspected of involvement with the group were rounded up in the next few days and taken to Iraqi prisons in Kirkuk and Mosul. Their fate is unknown, but a US defence official said at the weekend: "I don't doubt that many have been slain."

A handful of American CIA officers who had been covertly stationed in a suburb of Irbil before the Iraqi takeover were able to escape capture by leaving on August 30, reaching southern Turkey after passing through the northern town of Zakhu, according to several sources.

The officers had been

stationed in the town to collect intelligence and question defectors, and they lacked the capability to help evacuate others, according to one source. "This whole thing came down around them. Basically, they sat tight for as long as they could"

cally, they sat tight for as long as they could. The absence of US protection for Congress members in Irbil has provoked complaints from some of those associated with the group, who say Washington washed its hands of the dis-

sidents once the Iraqi assault was under way.

"From my personal point of view, no one has offered us any help on the ground," said General Taji Al-Ubaidy, head of the Congress military forces, speaking on a satellite telephone from Sulaymaniyah, where the group is trying to re-establish headquarters.

"On the day of the attack, a lot of my people kept asking, 'What are the Americans going to do? Are they going to attack the Iraqi side?'" the Congress officer said. "A lot of our people feel extremely disappointed and bitter."

Another well-placed Iraqi dissident echoed the complaint: "What are the Americans going to do? They even though everything we had built in Irbil was based on the premise that America would prevent an attack by Saddam on the city." — Washington Post.

Virgin scandal shakes Mexico

Phil Gimson in Mexico City

THE controversial abbot of the wealthiest and most visited Catholic shrine in the Americas — the Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexico City — resigned at the weekend.

Monsignor Guillermo Schulenburg, who is over 80, said his "spontaneous" decision was due to age. But most observers believe he was forced

out as a result of the revelation earlier this year that he regarded the story of the 1531 appearance of the virgin as legend rather than historical fact.

In a 1985 interview uncovered by the Italian magazine, 30 Giorni, Msgr Schulenburg, who was appointed to the post "for life" in 1963, said Juan Diego — the Indian to whom the virgin is said to have appeared on Tepeyac hill — was "a symbol, not a reality".

His remarks caused a huge scandal in Mexico, where the dark-skinned virgin is not just an object of religious veneration but perhaps the single most important emblem of national identity.

The war of independence and the Mexican revolution were both fought under her banner, and an estimated 10 million pilgrims visit the shrine every year.

"How can this gentleman be in charge of the basilica when he makes such stupid remarks?" said Fr Joaquin Escalante, head of Mexico's ecclesiastical tribunal.

"Poor old man, he's gone soft in the head," added Monsignor Enrique Salazar, who, as director of the Centre of Guadalupan Studies, was a

prime mover in the beatification of Juan Diego.

Despite the beatification, the Vatican has never asserted the historical accuracy of the legend, which many scholars believe to be a highly successful play by the Spaniards to win over the indigenous population.

The "miraculous" portrait of the virgin, said to have been imprinted on Juan

Diego's tunic, incorporates a subtle blend of Catholic and indigenous religious symbols.

Nor is it a coincidence that the shrine was established on the spot where the Indians worshipped Tonantzin, the Aztec goddess of motherhood.

Some, however, see the abbot's resignation as the final skirmish in a long-running battle over control of the shrine's multi-million-dollar income, which Msgr Schulenburg had sought to separate from the archdiocese of Mexico City.

"The principal mystery of the Basilica of Guadalupe is not the appearance of the virgin but the disappearance of the huge sums of money the people of Mexico deposit in the shrine," said Horacio Serrano, who has written extensively on the subject.

Pressure has been growing among clergy and bishops for an independent audit of the basilica, and the abbot has been accused of living a life of ostentatious wealth.

A weekly magazine, Proceso, alleges: "From being a poor, orphan seminarian, Msgr Schulenburg became the owner of well-appointed residences in Mexico City and Cuernavaca."

His resignation, which takes effect on October 31, will allow Archbishop Norberto Rivera to carry out a huge overhaul of the basilica's administration.

Fr Escalante said the scandal has made believers "much more fervent than before". Proof, perhaps, of the validity of the Mexican saying that the country has three untouchable institutions: the presidency, the army and the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Poor turnout blunts Okinawan call for fewer American troops

AP in Naha

OKINAWAN voters answered with a resounding Yes yesterday in an unprecedented referendum on whether there are too many American troops on their islands in southern Japan.

Of those who voted, 89.1 per cent were in favour of reducing the United States military presence on Okinawa and changing a bilateral agreement that gives the troops special legal status.

However, the turnout — 59.5 per cent of the 910,000 eligible voters — was lower than expected. This lifted some of the pressure on Japan's prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, and the Clinton administration to reduce the forces immediately.

The referendum follows a year of tension between Okinawans and the nearly 30,000 US troops stationed here.

The worst anti-base demonstrations erupted after three US servicemen raped a girl aged 12 last September.

The strongly anti-base result, although widely expected and not legally binding, was an important victory for Okinawa's governor, Masahide Ota, a popular and outspoken opponent of the US troops.

Mr Ota is expected to use the result as a bargaining chip when he meets Mr Hashimoto tomorrow. He has vowed to continue his efforts to have all the bases removed by 2015.

Mr Hashimoto has said solving the bases issue is his administration's top priority. But his calls for other parts of Japan to share the load have been met with protests at prospective relocation sites.

Turnout was particularly low, and the pro-base vote high, near the bases — where thousands of Okinawans live. Each year, the bases pump about £1.15 billion into the local economy — second only to tourism.

Mr Ota said that while he understood the concerns of those who feared the loss of the bases would damage Okinawa's already weak economy, Okinawans must learn to live without the military.

The US and Japanese governments have repeatedly stressed their support for keeping the troops in Okinawa, although in April they agreed to the biggest return of base land in decades to try to quell the uproar over the rape.

stationed in the town to collect intelligence and question defectors, and they lacked the capability to help evacuate others, according to one source. "This whole thing came down around them. Basically, they sat tight for as long as they could"

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The principal mystery is the disappearance of huge sums of money'

Diego's tunic incorporates a subtle blend of Catholic and indigenous religious symbols.

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News in brief

Russian footwork defeats Chechens

RUSSIAN soldiers beat Chechen rebels 3-1 yesterday in a soccer match in the regional capital Grozny, where a fragile peace is holding after the withdrawal of troops and separatist forces.

Tar-Tass news agency said the match between the St Petersburg Omon crack police squad and the rebels of field commander Arbi Kurbanov took place after the pitch had been cleared of mines left in 21 months of fierce fighting.

Tass said that Omon servicemen and the rebels now formed a single group patrolling the city's Novopromyslovsky district.

A battalion of Russian troops began pulling out of Chechnya yesterday, the first to withdraw under a peace deal with the rebels negotiated by the Russian security chief, General Alexander Lebedev.

Meanwhile in Moscow, Interfax news agency reported that President Boris Yeltsin shot more than 40 ducks and a wild boar on a hunting trip with the German chancellor, Helmut Kohl, near the official residence where he will undergo heart surgery. — Reuter, Moscow.

Aid reaches Liberia's starving

A UNITED Nations aid agency said yesterday that it would deliver today the first food for eight months to the besieged town of Tubmanburg in western Liberia, where relief workers have found thousands of people starving.

The World Food Programme (WFP) said a team that reached the jungle town on Saturday believed more than half its estimated 35,000 inhabitants were suffering from extreme hunger and hundreds of children were close to death.

"It's a green hell," the WFP's Liberia country director, Tarek Elgundil, said after visiting the town, 45 miles north-west of the capital Monrovia.

Officials of the Rome-based WFP and other aid agencies are taking advantage of a peace deal agreed by rival factions in Liberia's six-year civil war to enter Tubmanburg, which has been cut off since February.

Mr Elgundil said one member of his team rated the situation as "worse than in Somalia in terms of the concentration of hungry people and the severity of the cases."

He said inhabitants had lived on soup from boiled tree leaves and eaten a wild red flower. "I've never seen such a massive number of hungry people," he said. — Reuter, Rome.

'Cold war' anthem dropped

NICARAGUA'S leftwing Sandinista Front has dropped its controversial anthem and instead adopted Beethoven's Ode to Joy, the former Sandinista president Daniel Ortega said on Saturday.

The old anthem, which contained the phrase "The Yankee is the enemy of humanity", was a relic of the cold war when the Sandinistas and the United States government were sworn enemies, Mr Ortega said.

The Sandinistas are trying to present a moderate image and improve relations with the US as they prepare for Nicaragua's presidential elections on October 20.

Mr Ortega said the US government's attitude had changed and the two powers could now work together. "The Sandinista anthem with those lyrics reflects another era," he said.

A CID-Gallup poll last week showed him with 30 per cent of the vote, closing the gap on Arnoldo Aleman of the rightwing Liberal Alliance with 34 per cent. — Reuter, Managua.

High turnout for Kashmiri poll

KASHMIRIS voted to choose their own government for the first time in nine years at the weekend, turning out in greater numbers than during parliamentary elections four months ago.

Election officials said the average turnout in the first of four rounds of balloting was 53 per cent. Journalists in the border areas, which voted on Saturday, reported enthusiastic crowds at many stations. Despite a boycott by pro-separatist parties and threats by armed groups, voting passed off peacefully.

However, some villagers accused security forces of ordering them out of their homes, in a repetition of the coercion used to ensure a high turnout in the May vote. Separatist leaders were put under house arrest until the close of polls.

The Indian government hopes the elections, which end nine years of direct rule from New Delhi, will produce a government willing to negotiate more autonomy for the state while remaining within the union. — Suzanne Goldenberg, New Delhi.

Rebels halt food supplies

THREATS from guerrillas have prevented truckloads of food reaching Colombia's capital Bogota, increasing food prices for the 7 million inhabitants, suppliers said on Saturday.

They said the price of plantains, maize and other products had risen by up to 40 per cent since the rebels declared "transport strikes" and threatened to burn vehicles.

The threats are part of a week-long rebel offensive — the biggest in decades — in which dozens of police and soldiers have died. Authorities say the attacks are in retaliation for government efforts to destroy coca crops, the plant used to make cocaine.

Many guerrilla units are involved in drug trafficking. Rebels killed 19 soldiers in an attack on Friday on a military base in a southern region dotted with large coca plantations.

They have also stopped traffic on roads in many provinces, burning buses, taxis and other vehicles defying their warnings. Losses to bus companies and other businesses are estimated to be millions of dollars.

About 3,000 trucks — 500 fewer than usual — have been arriving each day at Bogota's food supply centre. — AP, Bogota.



Six hundred Egyptian couples celebrate at a mass wedding party in a hockey stadium in Cairo, under the patronage of President Hosni Mubarak's wife, Suzanne. The event was organised to help young people avoid the expense of private wedding receptions.

Oprah talks her way to top

OPRAH Winfrey has again been ranked top of Forbes magazine's list of the 40 best paid entertainers. Her combined earnings for this year and last reached \$171 million (about £114 million).

That puts her \$21 million ahead of director Steven Spielberg, in the number two position.

"The reigning queen of talk television, Oprah just keeps on going," the magazine says in its latest issue.

Next on the list are the Beatles, pop singer Michael Jackson, the Rolling Stones, the Eagles, Arnold Schwarzenegger, magician David Copperfield, actor Jim Carrey and author Michael Crichton. — AP, New York.

Pope protest takes the cake

CREAM cakes and water-filled condoms were thrown by about 30 protesters who disrupted a service in Nantes cathedral, western France, yesterday. They threatened more attacks if the Pope visits the area later this month, police said.

No one was hurt but the priest conducting the service was knocked to the ground by the missiles. Flights broke out as the demonstrators were chased by members of the congregation. Two people were arrested but later released.

The protest was led by Georges Le Goupier, a Belgian anarchist. He said that the attacks would continue unless the Pope cancelled his visit later this month. — Reuter, Paris.

...n won't change: why they are all right as ... politics unless we ... as it gets.

Paris Diary
Alex Duval-Smith

FUTANKHAMUN got wind of the current activity in the Cybèle artefacts shop, he would want to take a turn around his tomb and register a few trademarks. After a build-up lasting some three millenniums (including a marked surge in interest in the last 300 years or so), Egyptomania has reached fever pitch in the French capital.

Dangers in this drive for food profits

Commentary
John Gray

BY CHRISTMAS most of the processed foods we buy in supermarkets will contain soybean that has been genetically altered.

are incalculable. Governments, and some scientists, tell us that it is to science that we turn for an assessment of the risks we are running, and how to limit them.

appeal of science is that it seems to offer an escape from the burdens of freedom of thought and individual judgment. In this cultural climate, in which science is used as an antidote against doubt and anxiety, it is hardly surprising that politicians should try to use "the science" to get themselves off the hook.

uses and the immune system since the emergence of AIDS; but the consequences of transplanting the organs of pigs into human beings remain unknown. In forging ahead with such experiments we are taking risks — with human health, the wellbeing of other animal species and the environment — about which science can, at present, tell us very little.

politically palatable — a very tall order in a culture sustained by the faith that there are technical fixes for all human ills — a precautionary approach to new technologies might safeguard us against many of the dangers we are at present confronting.

Suffering at the hands of Howard



Paul Foot

JUST when you think you've heard the worst from Howard's Home Office, a new outrage hoves about a neighbour. Jean Liang, Jean fled to this country from the Ivory Coast, west Africa, in 1984.

his fear was "well founded". So he could stay here. Quick as a flash the Home Office appealed. A Mrs S Roberts of the immigration and nationality directorate in Croydon complained, in the name of the Home Secretary, that "the adjudicator placed undue weight" on the evidence of two other FESCI members.

I WAS puzzled by a recent headline in the Financial Times: IMPOVERISHED BOOST PROVIDENT FINANCIAL'S COFFERS. Business heads usually refer to company names, so what was this company called Impoverished? Impoverished Mutual? Impoverished plc? Could this be, perhaps, a pensions company with a sympathetic name like "The British Widows'?" It emerged that Impoverished meant, simply, the very poor.

As if basking in a ray from the sun god Ra, Faris-Match magazine this week makes great play of having refrained from publishing pictures of Princess Stephanie's husband allegedly caucouing with Miss Erotic Belgium. After all, why upset the Monaco royals when you have an exclusive extract from the fourth volume of Christian Jacq's book? Jacq has reintroduced Ramses II and created what could turn out, in sales terms, to be the publishing event of the 1990s.

THE Louvre has responded to the hype with a sense of history: the Egyptology wing is closed for refurbishment and there are no plans to reopen it until the end of next year.

But it is another architectural landmark which provides the key. The Louvre Pyramid is probably the most popular of all buildings commissioned by François Mitterrand — aka "le Sphinx".



As the TUC meets, Britain's role in Europe remains a key question for unions. Slow down, urges Bill Morris: a single currency could bring a jobs catastrophe

Jobs on the line

FOR THE past five years, the issue of Britain's relations with Europe has been a spectre haunting the Government, often to the extent of politically paralysing John Major's administration.

For the members of the Transport & General Workers' Union, and millions more besides, the single currency is not an academic question. If the British Government — any government — gets this wrong, they will pay with their jobs and, hence, their homes and their families in all too many cases.

event, the issue of national sovereignty as such looks very different to one born in a colony of the British Empire than it might to others.

potential of Japan's cash mountain allied to China's huge labour resources plain for all to see. Britain cannot turn its back on Europe in these circumstances without finding itself all but alone.

the bankruptcy of thousands of companies and the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs. Unemployment has only fallen since the speculators drove sterling out of the ERM.

Very many trade unionists remain to be persuaded that history will not repeat itself if we press ahead with a single European currency.

And, the T&G believes, there should be a referendum of the British people before any final decision is taken. We cannot leave it to a billionaire businessman to bang the drum for democracy.

The star's the thing

Following rumours of dark deeds at the National Theatre, Lyn Gardner fears for the future of the old-fashioned understudy

THEATRICAL legend thrives on the fantasy of the understudy who gets his or her big break when the star falls sick or falls over dead drunk just as the curtain is about to rise.

where on Wednesday evening retired National Theatre actress and understudy Rita Davies took over from Vanessa Redgrave, struck down by a respiratory illness, opposite Paul Scofield and Eileen Atkins in Richard Eyre's production of John Gabriel Borkman.

due to begin, Ms Davies was told that she would no longer be invited to play the role as future performances of the sell-out production would be cancelled until Miss Redgrave was fit enough to return to the stage.

ing the Broadway opening of David Hare's Skylight

Opinion within the profession was divided this weekend over whether the National had taken the right decision. One actress who has understudied widely said: "If it is true that Scofield would not perform off an understudy, it is outrageous. We are professionals too. Understudies are often no less talented than those who are cast in the role. Often it's just a matter of luck."

chance when she replaced Natasha Parry in The White Guard

What this suggests is that the productions are being increasingly sold not on their merits but on their stars. The play and the production are no longer enough. What happened at the National suggests that John Gabriel Borkman isn't worth doing unless it is laden down with 24-carat stars.

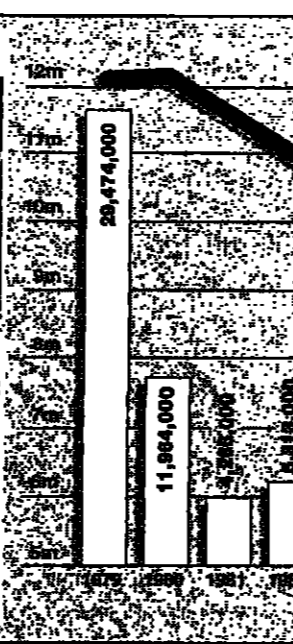
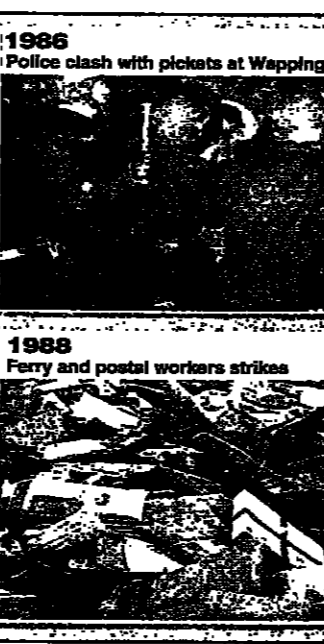
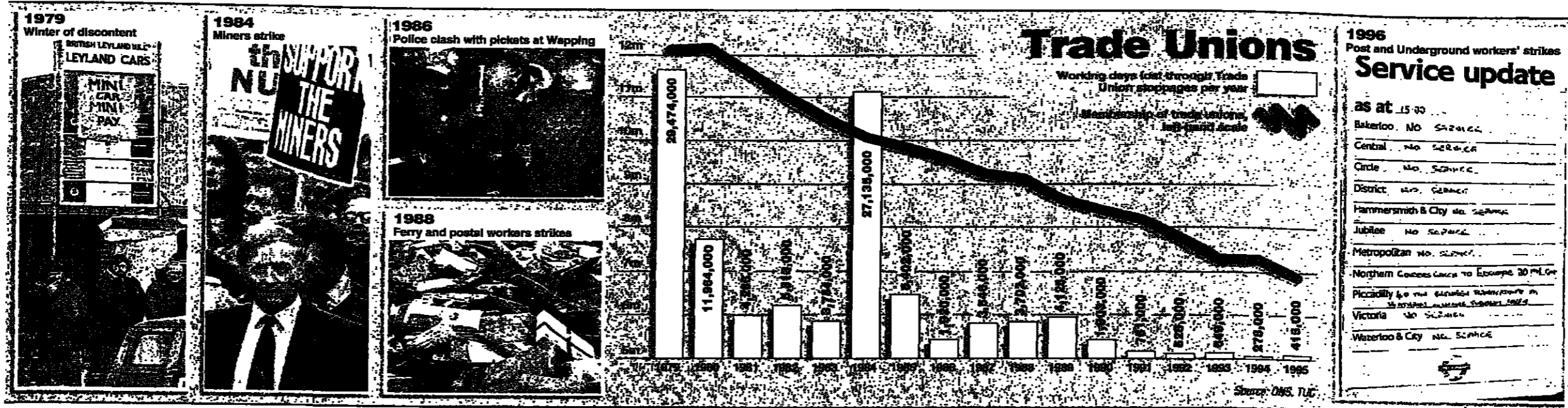


"Rukba has really helped me stay independent"



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ELECTION BATTLEGROUND/Continuing our series, Guardian reporters examine the effects of the decline in union power but conclude that bosses, not workers, are now villains of the 1990s



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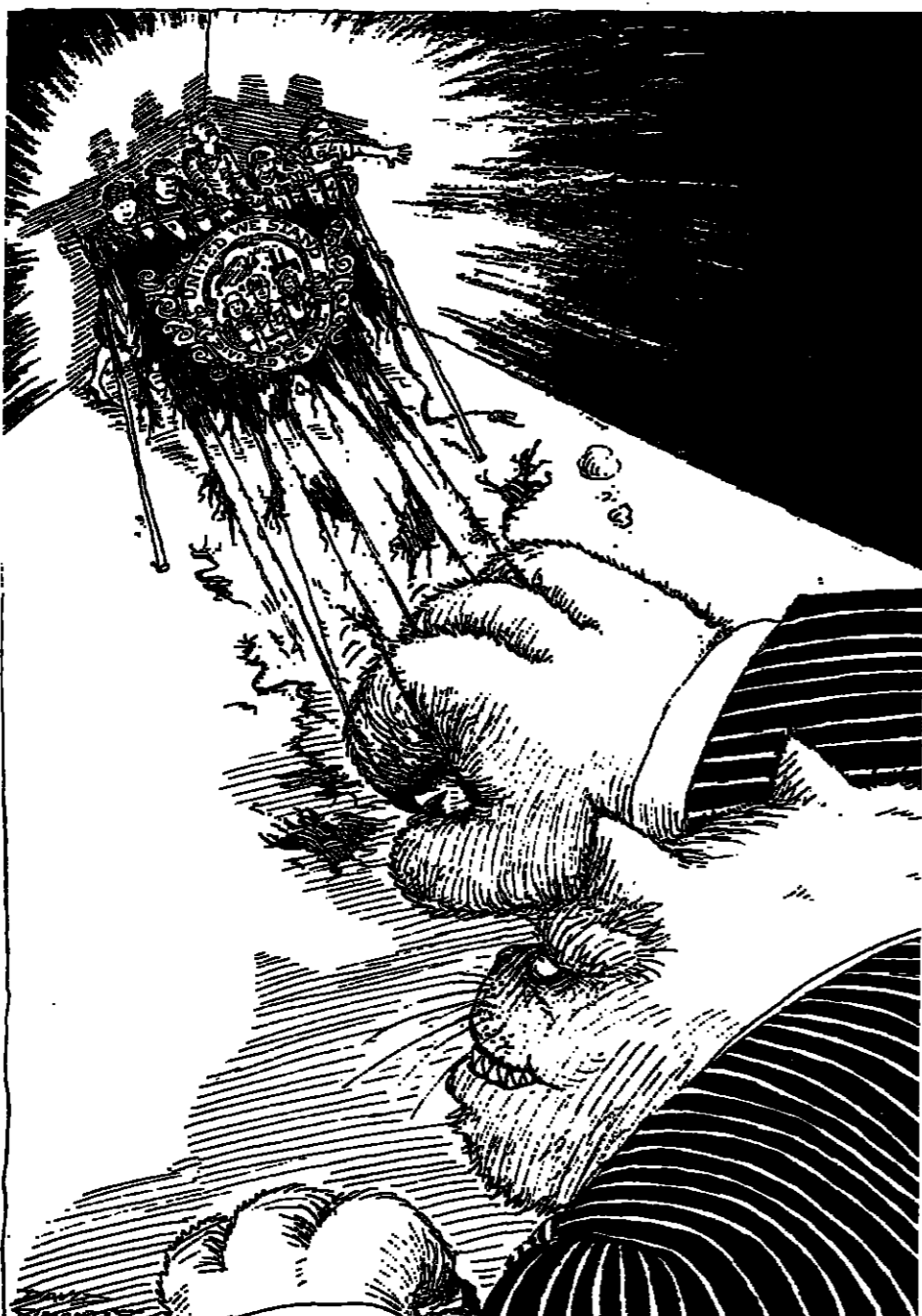
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Class war at its crudest brings no benefit despite Tory claims



Larry Elliott

THOSE of us who dislike Manchester United winning everything in football all the time should take some lessons from the way the Government has handled the unions these past 18 years.

The first thing to do is insist that United are not allowed any foreign players: then that a member of the Manchester City fan club should referee their games. So, it will continue, season by season, until United have to play both halves up a one-in-four slope at a redesigned Old Trafford and pay a fine every time they commit a foul.

After 10 years, when the fans have lost heart, those of us who support other clubs can suggest United have no future as a team but might prosper if they sell replica kits.

This process will be familiar to trade unions, and it's easy to see why it has met with such thunderous applause on the right. The attack on the trade unions — through deflationary economics, policies and relentless legislation — has been class warfare at its crudest. Why

bits of the left should also be parroting such reactionary twaddle is more puzzling. The fact is that the shackling of the unions is up there with the Falklands War as one of the achievements of four terms of Conservative government. Indeed, it was where Mrs Thatcher's thirst for a return to Victorian values was fully slaked.

Ministers argue that the tough approach has worked, because turning the clock back has improved the climate of industrial relations, boosted productivity, and brought about a sea change in pay bargaining.

The right insists breaking the power of organised labour has been good for workers as well, if they would but admit it. Unions act more responsibly, are more in touch with what their members want. They should give up the industrial struggle and flog motor insurance instead.

However, unions appear to be a one-off case when it comes to the implementation of Victorian values. No minister has yet suggested a return to 19th century surgery, dentistry or sanitation. Nor has any member of the Government been brave enough to claim that it would boost competitiveness to deprive women of the vote.

Yet a master-servant approach to industrial relations is deemed a good thing, even if it means employers can flout health and safety regulations and sack staff with impunity to prevent them qualifying for statutory employment rights.

Even such bastions of laissez-faire thinking as the World Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development now agree that this is not the way forward, given that the West is never going to compete in terms of wage costs with south Asia or eastern Europe.

The evidence that the campaign waged against the unions has delivered the economic benefits claimed is tenuous. The argument is that unions distort supply and demand in the labour market by pushing up wages and reducing investment. This reduces demand for labour.

Nice theory, but after 18 years we still seem to be waiting for the higher investment and the lower unemployment.

Whereas an individual firm can boost its profits from deunionisation and holding down wages, the benefits to the economy at an aggregate level are more difficult to discern. The side-effects of the decline in union influence have been widening income inequalities, rising poverty and job insecurity, which have had detrimental effects on growth, the balance of payments and public finances.

Apologists for the new right would argue that this attack

on labour is warranted, because it should lead to a fall in the share of national income taken by wages, and a rise in the share for investment. The story of the past 18 years is quite different. Wages as a share of GDP have fallen, but all this has meant is that dividends have gone through the roof.

The Government seems proud of this, impervious to the notion that the future for Britain is a decently paid, highly productive, secure workforce. But plans for further curbs on unions would be a bridge too far.

Back in the 1970s, union bosses were the satirists' target, no longer. If popular culture says anything about the political mood, the public thinks the villains are now the bosses. Union membership may have fallen to below eight million, but the TUC believes there is a hidden pool of potential recruits — perhaps several million — reluctant to join for fear of reprisals.

Nor is it true that the days of industrial action are over. The number of days lost through strikes has fallen sharply over the past 18 years (as the graphic shows), but in the first half of this year, there were 18 million days lost in 81 per cent of ballots. Unions have been using the votes to good effect. Following a successful ballot, two out of three disputes were settled without recourse to industrial action.

So, where now? The trend in industry during the 1990s has been for firms to concentrate on their core business —

unions should do the same. If unions can't deliver on bread and butter issues — pay and working conditions — will members think it likely they can beat Direct Line when it comes to car insurance?

Two things will help in this respect. Inflation is weak, which should allow monetary policy to be expansionary — good for employment and union recruitment.

The other factor is the likelihood of a Labour government. Tony Blair has said that there will be no favours to the unions, but in power he will need the unions as much as they need him. The TUC believes it can expect a minimum wage, the Social Chapter, the right to recognition, and protection against dismissal during a legal dispute.

It would like more, like instant employment protection against unfair dismissal and greater freedom to prosecute disputes against companies that divide themselves up to prevent secondary action, but John Monks, TUC general secretary says Labour's four commitments should not be underestimated.

Let's hope so. Some on the left think unions are no longer needed these days but they are fuzzy about what the benefits are to workers. Simple. In the days the boss would say "You're fired", you would fetch the shop steward. In the de-unionised "us-and-us boss" world of the future the boss says: "I understand your pain but you're fired all the same".

Indicators

TODAY — JPI Balance of payments (July)

UK: Producer prices

UK: Construction new orders (July)

TOMORROW — US: Current account balance (Q1)

WEDNESDAY — UK: Unemployment figures

UK: Average earnings (July)

THURSDAY — GER: Budget negotiations

US: Producer price index

UK: Retail prices

FR: Current account (June)

FRIDAY — US: Consumer price index

US: Retail sales

FR: Consumer prices

Source: Goldman Sachs International

Where seven drew the line

Sarah Ryle meets fenced-in pickets

THE seven-strong vigil at Hyde Park Corner is unlikely to lead to the kind of drama seen at Orgreave during the miners' strike in 1984, or two years later at Wapping when the print unions took on Rupert Murdoch and lost.

The days when unions would pull out an entire workforce over one sacking, let alone the 56 in this case, are long gone.

Unison, which represents the former domestic assistants at Hillingdon Hospital, has been running a year-long campaign against what it claimed were the heavy-handed management tactics of the private contractor which took over support services and sacked the workers.

Of the 56 sacked on October 31 last year by Pail Mall, 54 were women and almost all were Asian. They refused to sign new contracts because it meant agreeing to a pay cut. Support service workers in other units were offered more money, signed the deal and remained with the hospital.

A year later, the women are still in official dispute. Because of this, none has sought other jobs — and none has received unemployment benefit, because they are deemed to have made themselves unavailable for work. Last week they stood for six hours each day outside the headquarters of Pail Mall's parent company, Davis Service Group.

The vigil had the flavour of a token gesture. Traffic and pedestrians passed by with only the occasional, mildly interested glance from drivers waiting at the lights.

Malkiat Bilku, the shop steward who had 25 years of service at Hillingdon, said she was used to uncomfortable picketing. When the dispute started in November, she recalled, the picket stationed outside Hillingdon Hospital was something to be reckoned with. "There were three women arrested. There were 25 people every day and they sent about 200 policemen."

They recognise that even their union, which has 1.3 million members, does not



Undercut... keeping the faith at Hyde Park Corner

Pail Mall has been more akin to smart-bomb techniques than the old blitzkrieg approach which would have seen the entire work force at Hillingdon brought out to support their comrades. It has dubbed the dispute "the unacceptable face of contracting", highlighting a system which left workers vulnerable by handing out service work piecemeal.

The union has opted for national newspaper advertisements about Pail Mall and targeted other NHS trusts which may have had tenders from the company. Unison's boss is that Pail Mall has won only one hospital contract since the campaign started, and that was only with a provision that workers would receive the same pay as they had before.

Like the postal workers who last week deferred a further decision on strike action to make sure the membership was still behind the executive, Unison must tread carefully.

The dispute went to Acas, the arbitration service, and Davis Service Group said a settlement was negotiated which the union and Acas recommended to the workers. "There is not much more we can do," said John Ivey, a spokesman for the group. "The workers are seeking their jobs back and that is impossible. They were properly dismissed and given proper notice, and life has moved on since then. The union still supports them, which, of course, it has to."

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Worm's eye

Dan Atkinson

THERE is a scene in the Central TV drama *Second Time Around* in which the police tell a man suspected for years of having murdered a young girl that he is in the clear. They have a new suspect.

The reaction of the long-suffering ex-name in the frame is to laugh bitterly and explain why the new suspect can no more be

guilty than he was. "Can't you people get anything right?"

Similar despair is the consequence of exposure to our new user-friendly, business-like trade-union spokespeople; whether they be holding forth on television or making guest appearances in the newspapers to lament the Government's short-sightedness in rejecting the single currency, the social chapter, etc etc.

As with the little girl on the Tube train observing of a group of nuns: "mummy, why've those men got

funny hats on?", the TU boys are handicapped by a wonky analysis of fundamentals. About a decade ago (i.e. about 10 years after everybody else) the brothers twigged that they had become deeply unpopular. Their diagnosis of this unpopularity was and is entirely wrong-headed.

As a result, the union big-brass is convinced its hated figure status in the old days is all down to its opposition to sound money, new technology and things European. None of the true causes — picketing hospitals, hospitalising non-

strikers, protection-racketing in general — features on the list.

So, armed with a faulty historical analysis, the unions march forward to a hopelessly-wrong list of aspects of trade unionism that may switch off voters. Prominent are things like striking, demanding higher wages and the protection of employment, all deemed hopelessly "old-fashioned" or worse "masculine".

The real turn-offs, of course, are not mentioned. Were they to be so, the transformation of the unions into US-scale litiga-

tors more interested in obscure courtroom triumphs than the general welfare of their members would surely figure high up. One such "victory" recently rendered the members concerned unable to compete in open tender for their jobs, so dumping them on the dole queue.

The TU boys ought to forget all about "working with leading-edge companies for a world-class workforce". Four little words cover their waterfront: shorter hours, better pay. In fact, another little four-letter word says it all: more.

Despair at union speak's famous last words

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Boxing

Kevin Mitchell sees no feasible threat to the double world heavyweight champion after his 105-second destruction of Bruce Seldon in Las Vegas

Terrible Tyson fast and furious

MIKE TYSON needed only 109 seconds to re-establish himself as the dominant force in heavyweight boxing when he blew away a sad, timorous Bruce Seldon in Las Vegas on Saturday night.

He now holds the World Boxing Council and Seldon's World Boxing Association titles and there seems to be no fighter in the world equipped to do much about it.

Tyson knocked Seldon down twice, first with a mere brush of his right elbow. "I thought the punch missed," said the referee, who immediately counted Seldon — a 12-1 outsider — had slipped. "But he seemed dazed and hurt so I had to pick up the count."

The second knockdown, though, was with a heavy, measured left hook that had Seldon's eyes rolling like lemons in a fruit machine. Steele, who has seen a lot of broken bodies in 148 world title fights, steadied the rubber-legged American and directed him back to his stool.

Tyson strutted away from the wreckage to announce that his next fight would be against Evander Holyfield, in the same MGM arena on November 9. This leaves Lennox Lewis, the WBC's No. 1 challenger for more than a year and the man who accepted \$1 million to assist money to allow Tyson to fight Seldon first, out in the cold again.

The Londoner's connections must now prepare purse bids for a bout against the erratic Oliver McCall (presently in another drugs rehabilitation programme) for the WBC title that Tyson is likely to vacate this week, only a few months after ripping it from the feeble grasp of Frank Bruno.

The only scrap of comfort Lewis might draw from all this is that he remains the only proven, top-flight challenger still roughly in the frame. Riddick Bowe, fat and uninterested, seems beyond redemption. Holyfield, looks tired and vulnerable, and of the fringe candidates only Andrew Golota, who was clearly beating Bowe until disqualified for repeated low blows, might be talked up as a credible opponent.

It is depressing. But there was no denying the awesome nature of Tyson's performance on Saturday night. He was rattle-snake-quick, elusive and just as powerful as when he ruled the division completely in the Eighties. Seldon, with cruel shouts of "Fix" ringing in his ears, insisted: "I definitely did not take a dive. I was not intimidated, but I now realise how hard he hits and how fast he is. He is a destroyer. He rattled my eyes. I couldn't see clearly."

Seldon could see clearly enough, though, when he signed a \$5 million contract that called for a fight, not a fight.

Tyson was more convincing in declaring: "I'm punching harder than when I was younger." He sounded more like the ogre of old, too, when he confronted Holyfield later: "You've got nothing, man, nothing. I'm going to have a good time this fight."

This was Tyson's 20th first-round blow-out in 46 fights and one of his best. At 32 he looks fitter than he has done for a long time, certainly better than in the dissolute days just before he went to prison, and he seems capable of extending his reign of terror for as long as he chooses.

Even so, there is talk of the winner Tyson giving up his three houses, closing down his little zoo with the clawless tiger and heading for a life of meditation in Mecca. An awful lot of non-Muslim fighters will be praying to Allah that Tyson means what he says.

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Short story... Tyson, muscles popping with all the old intensity, lands the left hook that halted Bruce Seldon in round one

Sport in brief

Sergei leads return

TOP CLASS men's tennis returns to Bourneborough after a 13-year absence today when a course record in the former French Open champion Sergei Bruguera competes for £270,000 in prize-money, writes David Trueman.

Britain's Martin Lee, the top junior, faces the experienced Argentinian Guillermo Perez-Roldan, who is attempting to re-establish himself after a long absence through injury, and Luke Milligan has drawn Felix Mantilla, a recent winner of the ATP title in Oporto.

Cycling

Chris Boardman, who broke the world one-hour record on Friday, set a course record in winning the Joseph Wharton Memorial time-trial at Liestal, Switzerland. His time of 39min 50sec sliced Iain Zisec off the Swiss rider Tony Rominger's time over the 29.8km circuit in 1994.

Athletics

The 32-year-old Romanian distance runner Elena Margoc has been given a life ban for taking anabolic steroids.

Chess

Two leading British clubs, Barbican and Guildford, were decisively beaten in the opening round of the European Cup at the Barbican centre in London, writes Leonard Barden. Michael Adams, the UK No. 2, who plays for the Dutch champions Panfox Breda, won both his games but his team still lost to Russia's all-grandmaster squad from Kazan.

Ice Hockey

A goal by Brendan Shanahan 12 seconds from the end of a second period of sudden-death overtime gave Canada a 3-2 victory over Sweden in the first semi-final of the inaugural World Cup Of Hockey in Philadelphia, writes Vic Batchelder.

Racing

Ashkalani has world at his feet

Graham Rank

ASHKALANI staked his claim to the European mile championship with an impressive victory in the Emirates Prix du Moulin de Longchamp yesterday, sprinting clear in the closing stages to beat Spinning World by a length and a half.

He is poised to meet Mark Of Esteem and Bosra Sham in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot later this month. The going is the most important factor to Ashkalani, who would be unbeaten this season but for the slight unlucky defeat in the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot.

The French 2,000 Guineas winner is significantly inferior on soft ground, and was able to produce his finishing burst on the fastish Longchamp surface.

Spinning World, he improved," said the Aga Khan, owner of Ashkalani. "He must have good ground and we were wise to avoid Deauville. It depends on how he comes out of this race, but we will be considering the Queen Elizabeth and the Breeders' Cup mile, possibly both."

Spinning World held on to second place by a short head from Shake The Yoke. He will miss Ascot to be prepared for the Breeders' Cup Mile. British raiders abroad were notably successful yesterday. Always Aloof stayed on well to defeat Kassani by three-quarters of a length in the Prix Gladiateur and is likely to return to Longchamp for the Prix du Cadran on Arc Saturday.

In Sweden, Jayanpee and Frankie Dettori won the Tabby Open Sprint Championship, Ian Balding's horse crossed the line second in a blanket finish behind Hamburger's Landing, who was subse-

quently placed behind the runner-up following a stewards' enquiry. David Loder's Overbury was a disappointing fifth in the Stockholm Cup, but the Newmarket trainer was at the Curragh to see his Lowther Stakes winner Bianca Nera record an impressive victory in the Moylagre Stud Stakes.

Hemmed in until the final furlong, Bianca Nera was switched for a run by Kevin Darley and as soon as his mount found room she accelerated to beat Ryaflan far more easily than the distance of half a length would suggest. "She has a tremendous temperament and Kevin says she is a Guinness filly," said Loder.

Robert Sangster's Crystal Crossing was boxed in throughout the final quarter-mile and would have finished closer if a better run, without beating the winner.

Loder introduced a promising two-year-old at Haydock on Saturday in Apprehension, who easily landed odds of 8-15 in the Altrincham Maiden Stakes. The winner is likely to run in Ascot's Royal Lodge Stakes, which is also a possible target for Henry Cecil's Besige, game winner of the St Anne's Stakes.

With low numbers at a disadvantage on the firm ground at Haydock, inconveniencing both Miesque's Son and Lucayan Prince in the Sprint Cup, Iktamal put up the best performance of his career to beat Blue Duster by a length.

The winner needs to be held up for a blistering early pace to be seen to best advantage over six furlongs. While Saturday's race was not the strongest for the Group One race, it would not surprise me if Iktamal were to run with considerable credit if sent to Toronto for the Breeders' Cup Sprint next month.

Bath runners and riders with form guide

- 1.45 Jilly Bevelled
2.15 Blackie Stealin
2.45 New Harrier
3.15 Overton
3.45 PAINTING (step)
4.15 Loving And Giving
4.45 Longwick Lad

Colours Good to Blue, D. Dancer, M. M. M. Dancer, Dancer Low numbers favoured. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last racing.

Table with 3 columns: Race number, Horse name, and Odds. Includes races like 1.45 AUTUMN SELLING HANDICAP and 2.15 BATH RUNNERS MAIDEN STAKES.

FORM GUIDE - PERFECT GIFT: Heavyweight 2 out, ran on well, too much to do. 3rd behind Canada Stone...

COGNAC: 1st 100 lb of 7 to Belmont (Epsom 1st), 2nd 100 lb of 7 to Belmont (Epsom 1st), 2nd 100 lb of 7 to Belmont (Epsom 1st)...

4.15 TWENTY MAIDEN AUCTION FILLIES STAKES 2YO IN £2,000

Table with 3 columns: Race number, Horse name, and Odds. Includes races like 1.45 LEVY BOARD SELLING HANDICAP and 2.15 BATH RUNNERS MAIDEN STAKES.

Southwell all-weather card

Table with 2 columns: Race number and Horse name. Includes races like 2.00 North Ardar, 2.30 Palaeogene Jack, 3.00 Walking Game.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and Horse name. Includes races like 2.00 AMSTERDAM ANALYTICAL HANDICAP 1M £2,070, 2.30 COPENHAGEN CLAIMING STAKES 2YO IN £2,021.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and Horse name. Includes races like 3.00 NEW COLONIAL MAIDEN STAKES 2YO IN £2,021, 3.30 MILAN HANDICAP 1M IN £2,021.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and Horse name. Includes races like 4.00 HOME SELLING HURRY HANDICAP 2YO IN £2,070, 4.30 COPENHAGEN CLAIMING STAKES (2YO) IN £2,021.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and Horse name. Includes races like 5.00 BREXIT FLIGHT (54) £ Smith 9, 5.30 SHERRILL MAIDEN STAKES 2YO IN £2,021.

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Table with 2 columns: Race number and Horse name. Includes races like 2.45 DEERHOLE BANTON HURRY HANDICAP 2YO IN £2,000, 3.15 SHERRILL MAIDEN STAKES 2YO IN £2,021.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and Horse name. Includes races like 3.45 KEITH FORSTER MAIDEN HANDICAP 1M IN £2,000, 4.15 SHERRILL MAIDEN STAKES 2YO IN £2,021.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and Horse name. Includes races like 4.45 SHERRILL MAIDEN STAKES 2YO IN £2,021, 5.15 SHERRILL MAIDEN STAKES 2YO IN £2,021.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and Horse name. Includes races like 5.45 SHERRILL MAIDEN STAKES 2YO IN £2,021, 6.15 SHERRILL MAIDEN STAKES 2YO IN £2,021.

Prize Leger ride for Oscar

OSCAR Urbina, twice champion apprentice rider in Spain and making a name for himself in Britain this season, has landed the plum ride on Mons in Saturday's Pertemps St Leger at Doncaster, writes Ron Cox.

Gordie, one of the best backed St Leger runners over the weekend, will be partnered by Kieren Fallon as Olivier Fresnel, who was due to ride with the Dermot Weld-trained colt, has been re-routed to Leopardstown.

Urbina, 24, gets his chance after a successful season which has seen him ride 24 winners, including 21 for Luca Cumani, trainer of 7-2 joint-favourite Mons.

"I think Oscar will give the horse a good ride," said Cumani. "He has done well this season and he knows Mons, having ridden him a lot at home in work."

RACELINE advertisement with phone number 0930 168+ and logo.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: 'مكتبة النخيل'

Rugby League

Stones Premiership final: St Helens 14, Wigan 44

Farrell helps Wigan take the consolation prize

Paul Fitzpatrick at Old Trafford

SEVERAL determination not to end the season without at least one piece of silverware carried Wigan to the Premiership Trophy before a crowd of 35,013 last night.

Inspired by their young captain and loose forward Andy Farrell, the Man of the Match, they kept Saints at bay for all but a brief period in the first half and an even briefer period in the second.

Paul Newlove, the Saints centre, did not deserve to be on the losing side but Wigan, who have now won this trophy three times in succession, were undeniably the superior side and underlined it when Ellison got his hat-trick late in the game to take them past 40 points. It was getting close to embarrassing for Saints.

The referee Mr Campbell called for a video ruling after only five minutes. He was right to do so: Ellison had moved sharply enough on to Hall's angled kick but failed

to ground the ball legitimately. By half-time, though, Ellison had been well compensated for that disappointment, the winger scoring twice as Wigan moved into an ominous lead of 18-8.

Connolly got their first try when he showed electrifying pace from close to the halfway line after gathering the ball from acting half-back. Saints' defence could have been more alert but Connolly was not for stopping.

McVey, Joyn's replacement in the Saints second row, has a rare ability to turn in the tackle and release the ball. It was this skill, coupled with Newlove's strength, which brought Saints their first try after 15 minutes. That was Newlove's 250th touchdown of an increasingly impressive career.

McVey was fouled in the 32nd minute and Goulding opted for two easy points, but either side of that were more points for Wigan. First Edwards, the master of support play, was on hand to finish off Robinson's break and then Ellison scored in the 37th and 37th minutes. The first came

when Farrell used his height and threw the ball, like a soccer-style throw-in, over the top to his winger; and then Ellison completed a superb sweeping movement which involved Radlinski, Farrell, Robinson and Edwards.

The early second-half try that Saints desperately needed if they were to remain in the contest came in the 47th minute, but not before another video ruling. A wonderful piece of centre play by Newlove provided Martyn with an opening. There was no argument that the stand-off was brought down before the line but there was no double movement, his natural momentum took him over.

Goulding landed a simple goal but, disappointingly for Saints, Wigan moved eight points ahead again almost immediately when Farrell slipped Haughton clear and the second-row forward had the legs and the strength to outstrip the Saints defence.

The impressive Newlove twice went close to making further inroads into Wigan's lead, but it was Saints who were again caught out when Wigan worked a clever scrum

move close the halfway line. Edwards fed Paul and the elusive Kiwi stand-off slipped between Newlove and Prescott and sprinted clear.

If Saints did not accept that the contest was sliding irretrievably away, they had to a few minutes later when Robinson slipped his leash and scored in the corner. Saints players: Hayes, Hunte, Newlove, Sullivan, Martyn, Goulding, Perleki, Cunningham, Fogarty, McVey, Marley, Hammond, Subbathasan, Arnold, Hugh, Pichavance, Booth, Wiggins, Hadjiri, Robinson, Tuganala, Connolly, Ellison, Paul, Edwards, Farrell, Hall, O'Connor, Haughton, Cassidy, Farrell, Subbathasan, Murdoch, Barrow, Lewis, Johnson. Referee: D Campbell (Widnes).

Salford won the Premiership Divisional final 19-6 against a resilient Keighley, for whom this was Phil Larder's final game as coach.

Salford might have been reduced to 12 men in the 61st minute when Steve Hampson committed what looked a blatant trip on Daryl Powell. Instead of being dismissed the full-back was placed on report and that was the only piece of good luck Salford needed.

Steve Blakeley, their captain, contributed 11 points with a try, three goals and a drop goal.



Jumping all the way to the bank... Edwards on his way to a 17.59m leap and a day that reaped \$150,000 STEFANO PELLANONI

Tennis

Graf takes 21st Grand Slam title

Stephen Bierley at Flushing Meadow

STEFFI GRAF won her 21st Grand Slam title last night, comprehensively outplaying Monica Seles to take the US Open in straight sets. The No. 1 seed never looked in trouble. Seles making too many unforced errors in a 7-5, 6-1 defeat that was completed just before the skies opened again.

Graf lost her serve at 5-4 but immediately broke back before serving out for the first set. She broke Seles again to take charge of the next with a succession of devastating forehands. It was all over in one hour and 20 minutes.

On Saturday there was no doubt that Bruce Seldon lay down quicker than Andre Agassi: he was on the canvas almost before Mike Tyson breathed on him. Agassi lasted about an hour and a half

more against Michael Chang but the Daily News, New York's "hometown newspaper", had no hesitation in branding him "gutless". Even the more reserved New York Times dubbed him a colourful accessory.

Agassi had been quite brilliant against Thomas Muster during their quarter-final under the floodlights. In his semi-final with Chang, in the cold light, he was little short of pathetic and lost 6-3, 6-2, 6-2. He never looked as if he wanted to win.

He blamed the wind and suggested the match "never really had any intensity". The wind was real enough. As for intensity, that was all in Chang's half of the court.

Pete Sampras remarked recently that his win over Agassi in the US Open last year had done more damage than was thought at the time. Certainly Agassi has had an extremely patchy year, sal-

vaged only — and arguably — by his gold medal at the Atlanta Olympics. The decline began when he lost, also to Chang, in straight sets in the Australian Open semi-finals.

"You have to be match tough," a subdued Agassi said here. "There are a lot of things that go into playing intense tennis. It comes from a long process of hard work and feeling you are getting better." Against Chang, who is a much faster mover than Muster, his footwork was frequently inadequate.

Agassi believed he had rediscovered his touch and confidence in Atlanta. He won the next tournament in Cincinnati, beating Chang in the final. Then, in the first round at Indianapolis, immediately before the US Open, he was defaulted for swearing at the umpire.

This is clearly a critical point in the 26-year-old Agassi's career. He never will be

consistent. But even he must now realise that unless he commits himself a good deal more to fitness then his big-time days may not return.

Goran Ivanisevic's game plan against Sampras in the other semi-final should have been crystal clear. The American had just survived the most gruelling of five-set matches against Alex Corretja and the Croatian needed to take Sampras's temperature early. Instead he played directly into the champion's hands by trying to hit winners with every shot instead of merely trying to keep the ball in play and wear Sampras down. But Ivanisevic appears incapable of thinking at all once on court.

Ivanisevic, who lost 6-3, 6-4, 6-7, 6-3, finds his failure at this level extremely frustrating. "But what can I do? Tennis is a tough sport. You are alone. No one can change you, if you play bad."

Mayock responds to Nebiolo's overtures

Duncan Mackay on the British athlete who missed out at the IAAF Grand Prix final but hopes to make up for it in Sarajevo today

JOHN MAYOCK will never be one of sport's millionaires. The Yorkshireman missed the biggest pay-day of his career when he finished ninth in the 1500 metres at the IAAF Grand Prix final in Milan on Saturday.

But while most of his colleagues were packing their bags and planning holidays, Mayock was joining 200 others en route to Sarajevo to take part in today's Solidarity meeting. "I think it's important that athletes put something back into the sport," he said. "It's no hardship to do one more meeting."

Mayock, one of only two Britons taking part in the first international sports event to be held in the war-ravaged Bosnian capital since the 1984 Winter Olympics,

needed special permission from his employer, Stafford Council, to attend. "I thought about not competing after missing out on the \$5,000 prize, but I had made a commitment and I wanted to honour that," he said.

Unlike Michael Johnson, who responded to a plea from his mother not to make the trip, Mayock does not fear for his safety in a city which until nine months ago was in a war zone. The Italian Air Force has guaranteed the athletes' safety, but Johnson and a number of top Americans remained unconvinced. Even assurances from the US Embassy in Sarajevo failed to convince them.

Primo Nebiolo, the president of the IAAF, whose brainchild the meeting is, made a last-minute personal

plea to leading agents to try to convince more top athletes to make the trip to an event that has captured the imagination of Sarajevo. The rebuilt Kosovo stadium which staged the Olympic opening and closing ceremonies 12 years ago has been sold out for weeks. "The arena holds 50,000 but we could have sold half a million tickets," said a senior IAAF officer.

The jewel in the meeting's crown is Daniel Komen, the Kenyan 5,000 metres runner who won \$50,000 as the overall IAAF Grand Prix champion, the biggest cheque in track and field history.

Under the convoluted scoring system, Komen was assured of the prize so long as he avoided defeat on Saturday. Jonathan Edwards, having won the triple jump with

a leap of 17.59 metres, could only watch as his rival battled it out with Salah Hissou of Morocco. "My heart missed a beat when Hissou took the lead on the last lap," said Edwards. "But I never really doubted Daniel would win."

Not that Edwards was complaining. He collected \$100,000 for finishing second overall to add to the \$50,000 for winning his event. "Compared to what they used to earn, this is mega money," he said. "I'm going to buy my wife a new car and make some investments for my two children."

Other Britons celebrating a windfall were Paula Radcliffe, the winner of \$10,000 for finishing fourth in the 5,000 metres, and Darren Campbell.

Campbell, coached by Linford Christie, was called up as a replacement in the 100 metres and earned \$6,000 for finishing seventh. He was so happy afterwards he responded to Nebiolo's request and travelled to Sarajevo.

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Equestrianism

King makes up for Atlanta

John Kerr

MARY KING yesterday won the Burghley Horse Trials on Star Appeal, her third and most important success since her disappointment at the Atlanta Olympics.

A single error in yesterday's showjumping test did not reduce her overnight advantage over last year's winner, the New Zealander Andrew Nicholson, whose Cartoom II also hit a fence. Faultless rounds by Australia's 1992 Olympic champion Matt Ryan on Hinnegar and Pippa Funnell on Bits And Pieces promoted them to third and fourth places.

King's highly popular victory, worth £15,000, was hardly out of turn as she has twice filled second and fourth places at Burghley. She should be a strong contender in the Open European Championships there next year.

In Saturday's cross-country Bruce Davidson on Sequel, who had shared the dressage lead with King, was one of a dozen fallers.

Motor Racing

Stuck lead sticks

John Kerr

HANS STUCK and Thierry Boutsen drove their Porsche to victory in the eighth round of the World Sportscar Championship, the Gulf Oil Global GT Challenge, at Brands Hatch yesterday. They finished one lap clear of the McLaren of Andy Wallace and Olivier Grouillard after four hours' racing.

Boutsen, a former grand prix driver, said: "Brands Hatch is a traditional circuit which would not be up to modern Formula One standards but I really enjoy coming here. It presents us with a real challenge with lots of difficult corners."

The Porsche, making its championship debut, led from start to finish and gained an advantage by needing only one tyre change. But it pulled clear only in the final half-hour and the championship leaders Ray Bellm and James Weaver stayed in touch until their McLaren blew its engine.

Their team-mates Lindsay Owen-Jones and Pierre-Henri Raphanel took third place on the final corner when John

Nielsen and Thomas Becker, also in a McLaren, ran out of petrol.

Bellm and Weaver retain the championship lead and, although their advantage has been cut to 32 points with two races to come, there is only a slim mathematical chance that anyone will overhaul them.

Frank Biela swept Audi to a triple crown in the Auto Trader RAC Touring Car Championship despite finishing only fourth and third in rounds 23 and 24 at Donington Park yesterday.

The German added the teams' and manufacturers' titles to the drivers' crown he captured at Thruxton two weeks ago. The achievement was all the more remarkable as Audi were competing in the British championship for the first time.

Biela's 10 points for finishing third in round 24 put Audi 42 points ahead of BMW in the manufacturers' championship, with a maximum of 30 to be won in the final two races at Brands Hatch in a fortnight.

Ice Hockey

Five Hawks dismissed

Vic Batchelder

BARELY 36 hours after the British Ice Hockey Association suspended Kingston Hawks' head coach Keith Milnebach, with his assistant and a player, after incidents in last week's Benson and Hedges Cup game with Newcastle Cobras in Hull, the Hawks had five more players dismissed from Saturday's return match at Newcastle.

All the trouble occurred within the opening nine minutes of the third period of a match Cobras won 10-4. The most serious incident involved Hawks' Ukrainian forward Danuse Bauba, adjudged to have head-butted Newcastle's defenceman Jukka Soumalainen. The Finn was also dismissed.

Kingston's Damian Smith was involved in a collision with the referee George Nicholson for which he was sent to the dressing room with a gross-misconduct penalty. Other Hawks dismissed were Gino Santarra, George Trabass and Chris Eimers.

Handwritten Arabic text: 'مكاتبنا للتأمين' (Our insurance office)

SOCCER

Premiership: Sunderland 0, West Ham United 0

Futre storms off on gloomy day

Michael Walker
THIS scarcely new but the joke about Sunderland fancying three seasons in the top flight...



Jumping the queue... Steve Agnew of Sunderland tries to avoid the attentions of Tim Breaker, left, and Slaven Bilic

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

came here looking to be negative. Perhaps it was just as well that Futre's English is still broken...

game of the season at Arsenal had been upset with his new club when he was refused his favourite No. 10 shirt.

being replaced. Yet he did on occasions remind everyone why Milan once signed him.

wastefully headed too high. As for Sunderland, they showed an appetite for the game but scoring has become a problem.

inside the box but, in a one-on-one confrontation with Miklosko, it wedged between Quinn's feet and the tall striker tumbled slowly to the ground.

First Division: Reading 2, Oxford Utd 0

Williams proves his worth at either end for Reading

Trevor Haylett
IT WAS 100 years last Thursday that Reading first started playing at Elm Park...

and Oxford today might not have been without appeal. To the strength of Matt Elliott in defence could be added the elegance of Dariusz Wdowczyk.

Souness finds the Kop forgive but not forget

Mark Redding sees a hard man make his first return to the old stamping ground

ARCHIE GEMMILL of Scotland once said of him: "If he was a chocolate drop he'd eat himself."

ing a turbulent 33 months in charge at the club which he had served as an imperious captain.



Souness... polite reception

Stone out for rest of season

STEVE STONE, the Nottingham Forest and England midfielder, looks likely to miss the rest of the season with a knee injury sustained in the fifth minute of the 0-0 draw against Leicester City at the City Ground.

Sheffield Wednesday 0, Chelsea 2

Leboeuf's command performance

Michael Walker
WITH Alex Ferguson fretting furiously about the great European theatre and Newcastle United only remembering to remember their lines now...

Hughes. The Romanian Petrescu had a wasteful afternoon but fortunately for him Burley and Myers did not.

Aston Villa 2, Arsenal 2

Villa's time will come

Martin Thorpe
IT IS difficult to know with Brian Little: is he genuinely that laid back or is he putting on a front for the media?

ticked off with a booking. An urban myth then erupted - fuelled on Radio 5's 6-0 phone-in show - that Riley had played six minutes' injury time.

Advertisement for NatWest Bank featuring the text 'NORTH The NatWest Trophy.' and 'Congratulations to Mike Watkinson and his men for taking the NatWest Trophy back to Old Trafford.' It also includes the NatWest logo and the slogan 'More than just a bank.'

Five pages of sport

Boxing Tyson hands out 109-second world title beating

12

Rugby Union Saracens suffer Sunday sting at Wasps' new home

13

Sport Extra

Schumacher wins with Hill tyred out

THE ordeal of Damon Hill continues. After taking the lead in the Italian Grand Prix yesterday...



Hill... clipped tyre barrier

Slip costs Hill the Italian Grand Prix but his team-mate Villeneuve fails to take advantage

Richard Williams reports from Monza

Hill made his customary poor start from pole position conceding the lead to Alesi. But, smarting from the humiliations of the past week...

He came out of the race with a measure of credit among those who heard Alesi's subsequent description of their battle during the first lap...

The heavily reworked F310 is far from being the best car in the field but Schumacher's genius overrides its defects. Yesterday he drove a superb strategic race...

lap record, leaving it a fraction above 150mph, and his only alarm was caused when he momentarily lost concentration with 13 laps to go...

Hakkinen, looking fast all weekend, raised McLaren's spirits with a fine recovery from his early mishap. Behind him in fourth and fifth places came the Jordan-Peugeot of Martin Brundle...

Johrny Herbert had been challenging Diniz for the final championship point until the engine of his Sauber-Ford blew up on the last lap. He finished ninth, behind Villeneuve's Williams and Jos Verstappen's Arrows-Hart...

As for the much discussed Heinz-Harald Frentzen, the man who will join Williams next season, he lasted only five minutes longer than the driver he will replace. Hill had barely begun his walk home when Frentzen spun his Sauber into the sand and out of an undistinguished eighth place.



Local hero... Schumacher jumps for joy as he shares the Italian crowd's elation at a Ferrari victory

Advertisement for Eagle Star insurance featuring a car window and the text 'OR spread your insurance payments over a year. Interest free. Interested? Call 0800 333 800 for a motor or home quote.'

Guardian Crossword No 20,753. Set by Fawley. Includes crossword grid and clues for Across and Down.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Tuesday Se', 'The Bon', 'Pare', 'P', 'Sac', 'vict', 'hur', 'Cl', 'K', 'Inside'.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page: 'مركزنا للتعليم'